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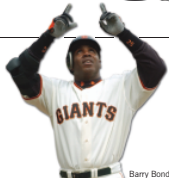
Bon Jovi stands the test of time with straightforward rock

Page 18

Lead singer Jon Bon Jovi

Report: Giants' Bonds testified to unknowing use of steroids

Back page



Barry Bonds

Volume 2, No. 238 © EPSS 2004 MIDEAST EDITION SATURDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2004

At least 30 killed in attacks on Baghdad police, mosque

Ongoing violence raises concern of safety during elections Page 3

A hero's welcome



CARMEN L. BURGESS/Courtesy to Stars and Stripes

Sgt. Andrew Butterworth, a National Guardsman with Company C, 1st Battalion, 120th Infantry Regiment in North Carolina, looks at the memorial set up in the Pentagon for the military and civilian casualties of the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks. Butterworth was part of a VIP tour Friday for 35 wounded veterans being treated at Walter Reed Army Medical Center and their families. The Pentagon invited all 22,000 of its employees to welcome them. See more photos on Page 4.

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News Tracker ... What's new with old news

Nation

BTK killings: A man whose arrest sparked speculation of a link to the decades-old Kansas BTK serial killings case was released on bond after a court appearance on two unrelated misdemeanor counts.

The man was arrested at his home Wednesday night on minor trespassing and housing code violations, and state police said his DNA was being tested to see if there was any link to the man sought for eight unsolved homicides between 1974 and 1986.

He appeared before Wichita Municipal Judge Jennifer Jones, who reduced his bond Thursday from \$17,500 to \$6,125 and ordered him to return to court next month. He then was released from jail.

"We have not, I repeat, have not, made an arrest in connection to BTK," the Wichita police chief said at a news conference.

Peterson trial: Scott Peterson's sister-in-law tearfully described the former fertilizer salesman as thoughtful and sincere to the 12 people who must decide his punishment for killing his pregnant wife, Laci.

Janey Peterson took the stand Thursday, the third day in the penalty phase of her brother-in-law's murder trial. She joined other family members and friends in trying to convince jurors that Peterson should not receive the death penalty for the 2002 murders of Laci and the 8-month-old fetus she was carrying. The other possible sentence for Peterson is life in prison without the possibility of parole.

Defense attorneys are trying to persuade jurors to spare Peterson's life with testimony about his childhood years and how a death sentence would affect his family members' lives.

Smuggling trial: One of three defendants on trial for his role in the deaths of 19 illegal immigrants was eager to join the smuggling ring linked to the fatalities, according to one of the members of the group.

Victor Jesus Rodriguez, Claudia Carrizales de Villa and Freddy Giovanni Garcia-Tobar are on trial for their roles in an operation that tried to transport more than 70 immigrants from south Texas to Houston in May 2003.

The trailer was abandoned at a truck stop near Victoria, about 100 miles southwest of Houston. Authorities found 17 immigrants dead inside the trailer. Two died later.

Defense attorneys for the three have said their clients had minimal involvement.

Wash. governor's race: Washington's Democratic gubernatorial candidate — trailing her GOP rival by just 42 votes — on Thursday urged her party to order a statewide hand recount of all 2.8 million votes for governor, regardless of the count.

"My request of the state Democratic Party is simple: Count the entire state or don't count at all," Christine Gregoire said in a statement released by her campaign office.

The recount costs at least 25 cents a ballot. The party said the cost of a full recount would exceed \$1 million. By late Thursday, the Democrats had about \$650,000 of the approximately \$750,000 they said that would be required for a full recount by the 5 p.m. Friday state deadline, said Kirstin Brown, the state party spokeswoman.

Powerball winner arrest: Officials planned to seek the man who won almost \$315 million at Powerball on a bail violation charge after he was arrested on a DUI count in his hometown.

Kanawha County Magistrate Tim Halloran ordered Jack Whitaker's arrest on Thursday, two days after Whitaker was charged with driving under the influence near Beckley, in southern West Virginia's Raleigh County.

Resignations: U.S. Attorney Strom Thurmond Jr., South Carolina's top federal prose-



Israel unrest:
Former Israeli
Prime Minister
Ehud Barak, left,
forcefully grabs
the microphone
from Israeli
Labor party
lawyer Moshe
Shahal during a
party convention
in Tel Aviv on
Tuesday. When
Shahal stood on
stage during the
convention to
speak, Barak
rushed onstage,
grabbed the
microphone from
Shahal and
accused party
members of
trying to steal
the party.

curator for the past three years, says he will resign.

Thurmond, the son of the late Sen. Strom Thurmond who died in 2003, told The (Columbia) State for Thursday's editions that he wants to return to private practice in Aiken, where he was born.

"It has been the highest of honors and the opportunity of a lifetime to have served in your administration," he wrote in his resignation letter to John Ashcroft last month. His last day will be Jan. 20.

War on terrorism

Pic. England court-martial: Prosecutors in the court-martial of P.K. Lyndine England may use two statements she gave describing the posing of naked Iraqi prisoners as "joking around, having fun," a military judge has ruled.

Defense attorneys had sought to keep out the January statements, saying England was coerced by military interrogators who pulled her out of bed in the middle of the night, kept her in closed rooms for hours and failed to fully inform her of her right to have a lawyer present.

The judge, Col. Stephen Henley, did agree to keep out a third statement that England made to investigators on May 5, a few weeks after the photos taken at Baghdad's Abu Ghraib prison were made public and England had invoked her right to an attorney.

World

Kosovo's new prime minister: Kosovo lawmakers on Friday elected as prime minister a former rebel commander who recently was questioned by U.N. war crimes investigators.

The 120-seat parliament voted 72 votes to 3 for ethnic Albanian Ramush Haradinaj to head the new Kosovo government, ignoring concerns that the move could add to the province's tensions.

Members of the second-biggest party, the Democratic Party of Kosovo, led by another former rebel leader, abstained.

Western officials were concerned about the election of 36-year-old Haradinaj to the post, fearing that he may be indicted for war crimes by a U.N. tribunal — a development that could destabilize the tense province.

Russia spy trial: A Russian scientist who was sentenced last month to 14 years in pris-

on on charges of spying for China appealed to the Supreme Court to overturn his conviction, his lawyer said Friday.

Valentin Danilov, a professor at Krasnoyarsk State Technical University in Siberia, was found guilty of passing information to China and defrauding the university of \$15,500. Danilov's lawyer, Yelena Yevmenova, said the Supreme Court appeal was filed Thursday. She said the high court could set a hearing date within the next three to four months.

Hopes for a favorable ruling are high, she said in a telephone interview from Krasnoyarsk, "if we are speaking from the position of law."

Nationwide gang sweep: Authorities arrested 224 street gang members during a weeklong sweep across Mexico. Interior Secretary Santiago Creel announced Thursday, charging the gang with running major drug and firearms trafficking operations in Mexico and some Central American nations. Police said most of the suspects from the Mara Salvatrucha gang were from Central America, but did not specify their nationalities.

Creel said those arrested faced charges of illegal gang activity, organized crime, falsification of documents and illegal weapons possession.

Officials said that Mara Salvatrucha is one of Central America's largest and most ruthless street gangs, but crackdowns in Honduras and El Salvador drove 85 percent of its membership into southern Mexico.

Military

Naval Academy gay alumni: The governing board of the Naval Academy Alumni Association has rejected a bid from graduates who sought to establish a predominantly gay and lesbian alumni chapter.

The decision Thursday marked the second time in two years the Naval Academy's alumni association rejected the gay group, whose members believe it is the first such chapter to seek recognition from a U.S. service academy.

The group has been operating and inducting members for more than a year, even though it does not have the official sanction of the alumni association. Now 68 members strong, it is the only group the association has ever denied affiliation.

Stories and photo from The Associated Press

Insurgents kill 30 in series of Baghdad strikes

BY SLOBODAN LEXIK

The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — In some of the worst violence in recent weeks in Baghdad, insurgents on Friday launched attacks against Iraqi security forces in the north and west of the capital, killing at least 30 people.

Coupled with running street battles in the northern city of Mosul that killed 11 rebels, the surge in violence appeared to indicate that militants still can stage attacks where and when they choose, despite major military campaigns such as last month's occupation of the rebel-held city of Fallujah — aimed at quelling the insurgency.

A statement posted on an Islamic Web site in the name of Jordanian terrorist Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, claimed responsibility for a daring raid on a police station in Baghdad and for attacks elsewhere in Iraq.

U.S. commanders and Iraq's interim authorities hope to boost security in the mainly Sunni areas of central and northern Iraq ahead of next month's national elections, following calls by prominent Sunni politicians who urged them to postpone the ballot in view of the escalating violence.

The visiting commander of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization expressed surprise Friday that the insurgency in Iraq had proved so resilient, in contrast to the situation in Afghanistan where he said the security situation had improved significantly.

"I am very pleased with what is

going on in Afghanistan ... but at the beginning I would have projected the opposite with Iraq coming along faster," Gen. James Jones said.

The apparently coordinated attacks in Baghdad began just before 6 a.m. local time, when 11 carloads of gunmen drove up to the police station in the city's western Amil district and attacked it with rocket-propelled grenades and small-arms fire.

Police Capt. Mohammed al-Jumaili said insurgents broke into the building killing 16 policemen, looting weapons, torching several cars and setting free about 35 detainees before melting away into the suburbs.

The claim from al-Zarqawi's group said 30 people were killed in the Amil attack and only two escaped.

"The destructive effect that such operations have on the morale of the enemy ... is clear," said the claim which could not be independently authenticated.

Later in the morning, in the Sunni Muslim stronghold of Azamiyah, a car bomb exploded at a Shiite mosque called Hameed al-Najjar killing 14 people and wounding 19, hospital sources said.

Azamiyah was a major center of Sunni support for Saddam Hussein, and the targeting of the mosque may have been a bid by Sunnis to stoke sectarian strife in the area.

But the imam of the nearby Sunni Abu Hanifa mosque immediately condemned the attack.



U.S. troops inspect a site after a mortar landed in central Baghdad on Thursday. At least five rounds exploded, including two in the Green Zone, the enclave that houses Iraq's interim administration and several foreign embassies.

"Iraqi resistance has nothing to do with bombing mosques and churches and killing innocent people in markets and streets," Sheikh Ahmed Hassan Al-Taha said in a sermon. "The resistance [exists] to defend the country and liberate it."

Soon after the mosque bombing, a gunfight erupted between rebels and Iraqi government forces in the district. It lasted for about two hours, officers at the scene said.

American and Iraqi forces also

clashed Friday with insurgents in the center of Mosul, Iraq's third-largest city. U.S. military spokesman Lt. Col. Paul Hastings said fighting started when guerrillas fired several mortar rounds at a U.S. base, causing no casualties.

Maj. Gen. Rashid Felehi, commander of the Iraqi commando force, said gunmen in Mosul also attacked three police stations. The defenders returned fire, killing 11 attackers and capturing three. Another Iraqi official said two civilians also died.

U.S. deaths in Iraq

The Associated Press

As of Thursday at least 1,263 members of the U.S. military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count. At least 989 died as a result of hostile action, the Defense Department said. The figures include three military civilians.

The AP count is four higher than the Defense Department's tally, last updated at 10 a.m. EST Thursday.

The British military has reported 74 deaths; Italy, 19; Poland, 13; Spain, 11; Ukraine, nine; Bulgaria, seven; Slovakia, three; Estonia, Thailand and the Netherlands, two each; and Denmark, El Salvador, Hungary and Latvia have reported one death each.

Since May 1, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 1,125 U.S. military members have died, according to AP's count. That includes at least 880 deaths resulting from hostile action, according to the military's numbers.

The latest deaths reported by the military:

■ One U.S. soldier died Wednesday in western Baghdad in a vehicle accident.

■ One U.S. soldier was killed Thursday while on patrol in Mosul.

The latest identifications reported by the military:

■ Marine Capt. Zachary A. Kolda, 23, Corps, Christi, Texas, died Wednesday in an attack in Anbar province; assigned to the Marine Reserves' 1st Battalion, 23rd Marine Regiment, 4th Marine Division, Houston.

■ Army Spc. David M. Fisher, 21, Green Island, N.Y.; died Wednesday in Baghdad when his vehicle rolled over; assigned to the Army National Guard's 1st Battalion, 101st Cavalry Regiment, Newburgh, N.Y.

■ Army Spc. Erik W. Hayes, 24, Cascade, Md.; died Monday in Midqiyah when an explosive detonated near his vehicle; assigned to 2nd Battalion, 2nd Infantry Regiment, 1st Infantry Division, Vilseck, Germany.

■ Army Spc. Daryl A. Davis, 20, Orlando, Fla.; died Monday in Iraq in a traffic accident; assigned to the National Guard's 144th Transportation Company, Marianna, Fla.

■ Mortuary Sgt. Javier Obles-Prado Peña, 36, Falls Church, Va.; died Wednesday at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center, Germany, from injuries received Nov. 25 in an attack in Anbar province; assigned to 2nd Reconnaissance Battalion, 2nd Marine Division, II Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Lejeune, N.C.

■ Army Spc. Pablo A. Calderon, 26, New York, and Army Sgt. Jose Guercia, Jr., 24, Mission City, Texas, died Monday in Fallujah when an explosive detonated near their vehicle; assigned to 1st Battalion, 5th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division, Fort Hood, Texas.

Germany thwarts plot against Iraqi prime minister

BY TONY CZUCZKA

The Associated Press

BERLIN — A flurry of hectic phone calls between Islamic radicals led German authorities to arrest three Iraqi suspects of planning to attack Iraqi Prime Minister Ayad Allawi while he was visiting Germany on Friday, the country's chief prosecutor said.

The three men belong to Ansar al-Islam, which has mounted attacks in U.S. and allied forces in Iraq since last year's U.S.-led invasion of the country, federal prosecutor Kay Nehm said.

U.S. authorities have linked the group to al-Qaida.

Investigators had been watching the three, and concluded through phone taps and the suspicious movements by one of the men before Allawi's visit that there was "evidence of plans of an attack" on the Iraqi leader, he said.

Nehm refused to elaborate on what kind of an attack might have been planned. Investigators were still examining evidence seized in three new residences and other buildings in Berlin, Stuttgart and Augsburg, he said.

The suspects' phone calls grew more hectic

after initial intelligence led officials to cancel a Thursday night meeting between Allawi and Iraqi exiles in Berlin, leading police to make the arrests early Friday, Nehm said.

"From the reactions in the various phone calls to the change in the visit's schedule, one must conclude that they indicate that something was planned against the Iraqi prime minister," he said.

"The conversations differed markedly from the usual support activity" for Ansar al-Islam, he said. "Naturally, that made us suspicious." Ansar al-Islam, which was formed in the Kurdish parts of Iraq, is believed to include Arab al-Qaida members who fled the U.S.-led invasion of Afghanistan in late 2002. Group leaders along the Iranian-Iraqi border were bombed and attacked by Iraqi Kurdish troops and U.S. Special Forces at the start of the Iraq war.

Jordanian terrorist Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, whose followers in Iraq have claimed responsibility for numerous car bombings and beatings of foreigners, including three Americans, is believed to have played a key role in the group after fleeing Afghanistan.

The United States has offered a \$25 million

reward for al-Zarqawi's capture — the same amount as for Osama bin Laden.

Hours after the arrests, Allawi met German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder in Berlin amid tight security. Allawi had come from Jordan on Thursday and was traveling on Russia on Friday.

Neither leader commented on the arrests at a brief news conference.

Nehm said the suspects, whose names were not released, appeared to have acted largely on the spur of the moment, seizing the opportunity of Allawi's visit.

Charges of membership in a terrorist organization were being prepared against the three men, he said.

German authorities have been investigating Ansar al-Islam's activities for at least a year, and authorities have said the group has about 100 supporters in the country.

After talks with Allawi, Schroeder said Iraq will seek closer business ties with Germany as the country's reconstruction advances.

Schroeder, whose government strongly opposed the U.S.-led war in Iraq and has ruled out sending troops, offered to expand Germany's training of Iraqi police and soldiers in the United Arab Emirates.

LSA troops reflect on time spent in Iraq

Servicemembers pack up to go home after 11-month deployment

BY RON JENSEN

Stars and Stripes

LOGISTICS SUPPORT AREA ANACONDA, Iraq — Just as the robin signals the arrival of spring, so the turn-in of NBC gear denotes the end of a long mission in Iraq — and a chance to reflect on the time spent there.

About 300 members of the 13th Corp Support Command's Headquarters Company handed back their unused nuclear, biological and chemical gear in recent days to prepare for a return to Fort Hood, Texas, after more than 11 months at LSA Anacanda.

"It hasn't hit me yet. It doesn't feel like I'm going home," said Spc. Charles Cook, a supply clerk.

Asked if he'll miss anything about life at Anacanda, he said, "The sunsets."

Others had a different answer that was equally quick and sincere.



RON JENSEN/Stars and Stripes

Sgt. 1st Class Ronnie Haith, left, of 13th Corp Support Command Headquarters Company, turns in his unused nuclear, biological and chemical gear to Spc. Fernando Hernandez at LSA Anacanda, Iraq, in preparation for a trip home after nearly one year at the base.

"Nothing," said Cpl. Jeffrey Benedict, an official mail clerk.

He was leaving the Army last year to study to be a physician's assistant when the stop-loss program changed his plans.

Now, he hopes to get that effort back on track.

"No," said Spc. Charles Cottingham, an official mail clerk, when asked if he'll miss anything about life at Anacanda, the large-

est supply hub in Iraq and home to about 23,000 troops and civilians.

He did admit one thing. "It went by faster than I thought it would," he said. "I guess that's because I stayed busy all the time."

That's his advice for anyone coming in about to start a long tour.

"Stay busy and try to stay out of trouble," he advised. "You can get bored real easy."

Sgt. 1st Class Ronnie Haith, food service noncommissioned officer in charge, said, "I'll probably miss some of the people. I'm sure when we get back to the rear I won't see them on a daily basis. I met a lot of nice people."

He, too, said the time passed more rapidly than he imagined when he arrived in January.

"One day just fell into another. Before you knew it, a week had gone by," he said.

Asked if he had any advice for newcomers, he said, "Just keep a positive outlook."

Then, with a nod toward the mortar and rocket attacks that kept the base on tenterhooks much of the time he was here, he added, "Keep your head low."

E-mail Ron Jensen at: jensenr@mail.esr.pent.mil.

U.S. focuses on protecting Afghanistan's democracy

BY STEPHEN GRAHAM

The Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — For a time, the U.S. military in Afghanistan was talking as if it would smoke Osama bin Laden out of a cave on the rocky Pakistan border within months, perhaps even ahead of President Bush's re-election.

Now, American commanders say protecting the country's fragile new democracy, reviving its economy and keeping Taliban militants on the run are the priorities, though tracking the cold trail of bin Laden and other al-Qaida leaders remains the focus of intelligence efforts.

Spies, informers, electronic listening devices and surveillance from the air all belong to the U.S. arsenal. However, American officials acknowledge that videotapes featuring a sprightly looking bin Laden — released days before the Nov. 2 election in the United States — and his deputy Ayman al-Zawahiri, have yielded no clues to their whereabouts, even though one was delivered to a TV channel in Islamabad.

"They're pretty sterile in terms of intelligence value," Maj. Gen. Eric Olson, the operational commander of U.S. forces here, said.

Despite initial high expectations on the other side of the border, Pakistan's yearlong crackdown against foreign militants near the tribal town of Wana also has yielded no trace of bin Laden or al-Zawahiri.

American generals have had three years to rue how the suspected mastermind of the Sept.

11, 2001 attacks slipped away from Afghan and U.S. troops near the Tora Bora caves of Afghanistan's eastern mountains as the regime of his Taliban protectors crumbled that December.

French Defense Minister Michele Alliot-Marie, who has special forces patrolling farther south, claimed last month that bin Laden narrowly escaped an American operation as recently as mid-2003. But there is no firm evidence anyone has picked up his trail since.

Interviewed at Bagram Air Base, nerve-center of the 18,000-strong force he helps command, Olson said this week that his immediate goals were preventing insurgents from mounting a "strategic surprise" with an attack on President-elect Hamid Karzai's Dec. 7 inauguration, and keeping them on the defensive ahead of April parliamentary elections.

Still, American commanders have slowly diluted their focus on combat operations against Taliban militants to take in more of the kind of nation-building that the Bush administration was once wary of.

Lawless provinces in the south and east are now dotted with "provincial reconstruction teams" designed to help the Afghan government regain a grip on the countryside while squeezing better intelligence from ordinary Afghans in return for building wells and clinics.

Olson said running down bin Laden and his cohorts was still the focus of American intelligence efforts here. "That's the main effort, no doubt about it."

Wounded veterans honored at Pentagon

Right: Spc. Kenny Lukes of Detachment 1, 133rd Infantry of the Iowa National Guard, is overcome with emotion when he sees the hallways of the Pentagon lined with well-wishers cheering and applauding on Friday. Lukes participated in a "VIP" tour for 35 wounded veterans being treated at Walter Reed Army Medical Center.

PHOTOS BY STAFF SGT. CARMEL L. BURGESS
Courtesy of U.S. Army



Left: Marine Lance Cpl. Zach Fincannon, in the black T-shirt and hat, is applauded as he enters the Pentagon.

Military hearing closed

FORT CARSON, Colorado — Citing national security, the Army closed a hearing on whether three soldiers will be court-martialed for allegedly suffocating an Iraqi general during an interrogation last year.

Allowing the public and the media to observe the hearing Thursday "would cause serious damage to national security" and could jeopardize the defendants' safety, investigating officer Capt. Robert Ayers said.

The Article 32 hearing began shortly afterward. There was no word on when the hearing would end, or when Ayers would make a decision.

Helping military families

GILMANTON, N.H. — A couple who runs a small cleaning company wanted to do something to help military families with loved ones in Iraq this holiday season.

They found that small gestures do make a difference.

"My husband and I can't be over there and we just wanted to do something," said Mary Boucher of Loudon. "There are children who don't have a parent or both parents might be over there."

She and her husband, Jo Neil, have put out a collection can for money at the Gilmanton town office building as well as a box to collect toys for the children who are forced to celebrate Christmas without their mom or dad this year.

From The Associated Press

Marines to resume reporting battle deaths

BY ROBERT BURNS

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — More than a month after it stopped publicly reporting individual Marine deaths in Iraq, the Corps' main headquarters there intends to resume the announcements, a spokeswoman said Thursday.

Col. Jenny Holbert, spokeswoman for the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force, said it was decided that during the Fallujah offensive the Marines would stay silent until the Defense Department's public affairs office in Washington released identities of Marines killed.

The names are not released in Washington until 24 hours after the victim's relatives are notified, a procedure that usually takes a few days.

Previously, the Marines would announce

the fact of a death on the day it happened, without details. That practice ended sometime before the Fallujah offensive was launched Nov. 8.

"We decided not to issue press releases on a casualty because we did not want to aid the enemy in determining the success of their actions," Holbert wrote in an e-mail response to questions about the practice.

Marines suffered most of the U.S. casualties during the fighting in Fallujah. The Los Angeles Times on Thursday quoted Lt. Gen. John Sattler, the top Marine commander in Iraq, as saying 71 U.S. troops died in the battle to retake the city, although it did not say how many of those were Marines.

"Now, since operations have slowed down, we are taking few casualties and the enemy has been severely disabled, we will

go back to publishing releases as casualties occur," Holbert wrote.

The Marines had three deaths in Iraq on Monday, but they were not officially reported. The official who released the three deaths did so on condition of anonymity because the policy has not changed yet.

Bryan Whitman, a Defense Department spokesman, said the blackout on information about Marine casualties was a practice the Marines chose on their own, not a policy encouraged or required by the Pentagon.

The Marines felt it was in their best interest to "not provide measures of effectiveness to your adversary" by reporting the number of troops killed on a given day, Whitman said.

Waiting for the Pentagon to release the identity of each Marine killed in Iraq provided "enough time away from the [fatal]

event that the information would have little value to the enemy," Holbert said.

The Army has taken a different approach. It has continued throughout the conflict in Iraq to report deaths at the time they occur, without immediately providing details such as the victim's name.

The Army has also provided more details, such as the town or city in which a soldier was killed, whereas the Marines have made it a practice since the start of the war in 2003 to identify only the province in which it happened. Most Marine deaths have been in Anbar province, which covers a vast area stretching from Baghdad to Iraq's borders with Jordan, Syria and Saudi Arabia.

The Army also publicly names the type of weapon used to kill a soldier, such as a roadside bomb, a rocket-propelled grenade or a sniper rifle. The Marines have withheld that information.

Sadr City residents emerging from war

BY HAMZA HENDAWI

The Associated Press

BAGHDAD, Iraq — The outdoor markets are busy again and the gridlocked traffic is back. The bands of excited children who walked behind local militiamen heading to battle in the fall now clamor around machinery laying down new water pipes.

After spending much of the year as a battlefield between militiamen and U.S. forces, Baghdad's Sadr City district is now embracing peace and reconstruction. Anticipation is high for what the residents of the mainly Shiite district say is their overdue empowerment through elections Jan. 30.

Workers in orange jumpsuits are laying asphalt in dozens of potholes dug by the fighters to conceal roadside bombs meant to kill American soldiers. The clerics who replaced their turbans and robes with track suits to join the fight with Iraqis in mosques and seminars.

The daily lives of Sadr City's estimated 2.5 million people have not seen much improvement in the two months since fighting ended.

But the large Baghdad neighborhood appears on such a euphoric high that the mounds of festering garbage, the constant seepage of sewage and shortage of clean water seem to matter little.

In marked contrast to the skeptical Sunni Arab community, Sadr City's population is looking forward to the January ballot. Banners and posters exhort residents to vote, and booklets explaining the process are distributed house-to-house. Even the sight of U.S. military convoys darting through the district no longer draw resentful looks.



A school child points to the Arabic word for father in a classroom in Baghdad's Shiite enclave of Sadr City on Tuesday. After spending much of the year as a battlefield between militiamen and U.S. forces, Sadr City has finally cast aside violence and destruction, embracing peace and reconstruction amid anticipation of what residents say is their overdue empowerment from elections in January.

Militiamen of the Imam al-Mahdi Army, who two months ago directed their mortars and rocket propelled grenades at American bases and Humvees, now protect the engineers and laborers working on U.S. military-funded projects. Some of them also have found jobs sweeping streets and fixing the potholes they themselves once dug.

But despite the peace dividends, some ambivalence remains in Sadr City about the government of Prime Minister Ayad Allawi — as well as the Americans.

"Iraq is for sale; contact Ayad Allawi for details," fresh graffiti declares.

"The Americans came to Iraq to wipe it off the map," a woman speaker told a gathering Thursday of tribal sheiks and professionals to discuss the reconstruction of Sadr City.

Sheik Kareem al-Bakhatti, a senior tribal leader from the area who led the negotiations that ended the fighting in October, said authorities reneged on a promise to free supporters of radical cleric Muqtada al-Sadr arrested in connection with the fighting.

He also complained that large-scale development projects promised by the Americans during weeks of negotiations have yet to get off the ground. "Some projects started, but they are small and few," al-Bakhatti said. Nothing is being done to improve the area's environment either, he said.

Being home to the single largest concentration of Iraq's Shiites — a majority that had been oppressed by the Sunni Arab minority for decades — Sadr City was a thorn in the side of the regime of Saddam Hussein, himself a Sunni.

Political and economic empowerment could well be in store for Iraq's Shiites, but dreams of better days are, for the time being, taking a back seat for many in Sadr City who face a daily struggle to cope with erratic services and find basic supplies.

The seven-member family of Muqtada al-Sadr, a retired teen-ager coach with a monthly pension of less than US\$100, is an example of both the economic hardships of life in Sadr City and the confusion felt by many over issues such as the U.S. presence, the government and al-Sadr's militia.

Farag pays \$40 in rent for the two-room house they live in. Already, two of his children quit school to help the family.

"Elections are a good thing and they will bring a better government. Things will improve," said Seif, the family's youngest child, as everyone laughed over his confident tone.

Violence scares off potential candidates

The Associated Press

BAGHDAD, Iraq — Iraq's on-going violence has scared off some potential candidates from registering for the planned Jan. 30 national polls, a U.S. official said Friday, but American and Iraqi authorities are determined to ensure the elections are staged as scheduled.

The official, speaking to reporters on condition of anonymity, said despite the unabating insurgency targeting U.S.-backed efforts to establish an elected Iraqi parliament, election-related activities are in motion throughout the country.

"The violence and the threat of violence is restraining some people from putting forward their candidate registration forms," the official said.

The Pentagon said this week announced plans to increase the number of U.S. troops in Iraq by 12,000, taking the overall number expected to be in the country before next month's elections to 150,000.

On top of increasing troop strengths, American military planners also have begun mounting attacks on areas regarded as strongholds of the anti-coalition insurgency, including the former rebel bastion of Fallujah.

"We are going to do all we can to make sure Iraqis who want to vote are able to vote," the official said. "We just finished the operation in Fallujah and we are looking for similar operations in other places to make things better."

Despite the threat of violence, no mechanism exists within Iraq's transitional administrative law to delay Iraq's elections, he noted. "There is no legal way to delay the elections. I don't see a way frankly," he said. "One of the reasons the [Bush] administration has been so supportive of holding them is that it is because the text [of the law] is very, very explicit."

Afghanistan prisons plagued by problems

By R. JEFFREY SMITH
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — A recent classified assessment of U.S. military detention facilities in Afghanistan found that they have been plagued by many of the problems that existed at military prisons in Iraq, including weak or nonexistent guidance for interrogators, creating what the assessment described as an "opportunity" for prisoner abuse.

The inspection, conducted this summer by a one-star Army general, has not been publicly released by the Defense Department. But three government officials privy to its conclusions said this week that Army Brig. Gen. Charles Jacoby had found a wide range of shortcomings in the military's handling of prisoners in Afghanistan, including an unwarranted use of racial exams instead of metal wands to search for contraband.

Jacoby, who was ordered to conduct the

In classified assessment, Brig. Gen. Jacoby finds lack of guidance at U.S.-run facilities

survey in May by the top U.S. military commander in Afghanistan after the military's abuse of Iraqi prisoners became public knowledge, found that just half of the roughly two dozen U.S. prisons in Afghanistan had posted written orders spelling out approved interrogation practices.

Jacoby also found those practices in need of revision and better enforcement, according to the government officials. Lacking any approved guidance, U.S. military commanders in the field were using their own judgment about how prisoners should be handled, opening the door to abuse and a loss of valuable intelligence, the officials said Jacoby concluded.

At the time of Jacoby's visit, senior U.S. military officials in Iraq and Washington

had known for more than four months about photographic evidence of abused prisoners in Iraq. Senior U.S. military officers in the region had also known for more than five months about an Army report alleging abuses by a CIA-Special Operations Forces group in Iraq.

A spokeswoman for the U.S. military operation in Afghanistan, Lt. Col. Pamela Keeton, said Thursday that while Jacoby did not find any instances of abuse underway during his visit, he did find that prison officers needed better military rules and training.

She said, for example, that before his inspection, prisoners could be held for indefinite periods at temporary prison facilities, where representatives of the International

Committee of the Red Cross had no access to them. Now, Keeton said, U.S. military rules bar the detention of any prisoner at a temporary prison for more than 10 days without release or transfer to a regular prison, and Red Cross representatives must be provided access within 15 days of their detention.

Keeton also said the practice of conducting invasive bodily searches among prisoners had been stopped in most cases. Efforts have also been made to curtail the number of temporary prisons in the field, she said; Jacoby's report suggested that the worst conduct may have occurred at such facilities.

Although the report represents the military's first attempt to survey the scope of prison shortcomings in Afghanistan, indications of widespread abuses there had turned up earlier this year, when Army investigators looked into mistreatment of prisoners at the Abu Ghraib prison in Iraq.

Staff writer Josh White contributed to this report.

Steve Balestrieri of Charleston, S.C., portrays an Iraqi to help train troops at Fort Dix, N.J., for overseas duty on Thursday. Fort Dix is one of several military installations now preparing troops with a more realistic simulation of war conditions.



With fake attacks and insurgents, training base feels like real Iraq

By GEOFF MULVIHILL
The Associated Press

FORT DIX, N.J. — With faux insurgents, fake bombs, real concrete barriers and a little city of tents, training to prepare Reservists and National Guard members for Iraq is becoming more realistic.

Over the past few months, one 40-acre section of Fort Dix has been transformed into "Forward Operating Base," a camp with new gravel roads and 100 tents that replicates an Army base in Iraq.

Similar training bases are going up at installations across the country.

On Thursday, the Army offered civilian base employees and the media a rare glimpse at how the Army trains soldiers to fight in an Iraq where insurgent fighting continues to add to the American death toll.

Fort Dix has trained more mobilizing part-time soldiers than any other base since the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks. Before the camp was built, soldiers training at Dix stayed in barracks and rode uneventfully on buses to each day's drill.

Now, the drills, like the war, are nonstop. Simulated mortar fire interrupts moments that are quiet aside from the loud drone of electrical generators. The convoys to drill sessions are sometimes broken up by roadside ambushes.

When soldiers sleep, it's in tents packed with a score of their colleagues. Meals for the more than 1,300 soldiers staying at the base are taken in a small dining tent without chairs.

Within the next six months, officials plan to have showers, pool tables and facilities to repair mili-

tary vehicles on the base — all features of bases in Iraq.

Late Thursday morning, a contractor acted the part of an Iraqi insurgent hurling a box containing a firecracker into a checkpoint manned by members of the Virginia National Guard.

In a hectic and smoky battlefield scene, one soldier acted out having a leg struck with shrapnel and a pretend insurgent was "shot" in the chest when a soldier fired a blank at him.

Medics had to sort out the situation time and get the "injured" onto stretchers while other soldiers — whose sleeplessness was no act — stood guard.

The medics treated the faux Iraqi with the chest wound before the GI with a leg wound.

The drills are made more realistic by Iraqi-Americans hired to play Iraqi civilians. In Thursday's drill, Munir Alftay, who came to the United States 14 years ago and now is a U.S. citizen, was playing an agitated sheik.

Reserve and Guard units called to active duty go from their regular lives to overseas battlefields in less than two months.

Col. Dave Anderson, commander of the 5th Brigade of the Edison-based 78th Division of the Army Reserve, which runs the FOB on Fort Dix, said the new command saves precious training time and speeds up the soldiers' military mentalities.

Before FOB, soldiers might spend a few nights at a time at a camp. Now, they're staying at the camp for 18 to 32 days before they board planes headed for Iraq.

"The earlier we get them thinking they are involved in a deployment mode, the better their training is going to be," Anderson said.

Government Oks using evidence gained by torture

By MICHAEL J. SNIFFEN
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Evidence gained by torture can be used by the U.S. military in deciding whether to imprison a foreigner indefinitely at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, as an enemy combatant, the government says.

Statements made under torture have been inadmissible in U.S. courts for about 70 years.

But the U.S. military panels reviewing the detention of 550 foreigners as enemy combatants at the U.S. naval base in Cuba are allowed to use such evidence, Principal Deputy Attorney General Brian Boyle acknowledged at a U.S. District Court hearing Thursday.

Some of the prisoners have filed lawsuits challenging their detention without charges for up to three years so far. At the hearing, Boyle urged District Judge Richard J. Leon to throw their cases out.

Attorneys for the prisoners argued that some were held solely on evidence gained by torture, which they said violated fundamental fairness and U.S. due process standards. But Boyle argued in a final hearing Wednesday that the detainees "have no constitutional rights enforceable in this court."

Leon asked whether a detention based solely on evidence gathered by torture would be illegal, because "torture is illegal. We all know that."

Boyle replied that if the military's combatant status review tribunals "determine that evidence of questionable provenance were reliable, nothing in the due process clause (of the Constitution) prohibits them from relying on it."

Leon asked whether there were any restrictions on using torture-induced evidence.

Boyle replied that the United States never would adopt a policy that would have barred it from acting on evidence that came from torture.

"About 70 years ago, the Supreme Court has been barred from acting on evidence that came from torture," he said. "But if the data came from questionable practices like torture by a foreign power."

Several arguments made by the U.S. court ban on products of torture.

"About 70 years ago, the Supreme Court

stopped the use of evidence produced by third-degree tactics largely on the theory that was totally unreliable," Harvard Law professor Philip B. Heymann, a former deputy U.S. attorney general, said in an interview. Subsequent high court rulings were based on revulsion at "the unfairness and brutality of it and later on the idea that conviction ought to be free and uncompelled."

Leon asked whether U.S. courts could review detentions based on evidence from torture conducted by U.S. personnel.

Boyle said torture was against U.S. policy and any allegations of it would be "forwarded through command channels for military discipline."

Congress eyes uneven VA health checks

More than two years after congressional auditors scored it as a problem, the Department of Veterans Affairs still has no way to assess whether its 57 regional offices are consistent in deciding disability claims for veterans suffering from the same type and severity of impairment.

The Government Accountability Office, in recent briefings for two House subcommittees, said, "VA cannot provide reasonable assurance that similarly situated veterans who submit claims for the same impairment to different regional offices receive reasonably consistent decisions."

In other words, where veterans live and file disability claims can impact disability ratings and thus

their compensation.

The report urged VA to use data collected through a newly implemented information system, called RBA 2000, to identify "indications" of inconsistencies among regional offices in award and denial of benefits. Then, where inconsistency even appears to exist for specific impairments, VA should conduct "systematic studies" of claim decisions for the specific ailments. The auditors indicated this process could take several years.

The greatest inconsistencies occur with mental disorders such as post-traumatic stress disorder, said Randy Reese, national service director for Disabled American Veterans.

"A lot of that has to do with how they interpret information," Reese said. "Some grant PTSD very liberally, using a broad and liberal in-

MILITARY UPDATE

Tom Philpott

terpretation of the law, a requirement" under Code of Federal Regulations guidelines. "In another region, it will be construed very narrowly."

Inconsistency in decision-making over PTSD is of particular concern now with so many soldiers and Marines exposed to trauma in Iraq. Mental health experts estimate that 15 to 17 percent of personnel serving tours there will return with symptoms of post-traumatic stress.

A study published in July in the

New England Journal of Medicine, written by Dr. Charles W. Hoge and five medical colleagues, found "a significant risk of mental health problems" for ground forces in Iraq. It also found "important barriers" to their receiving mental health services, "particularly the perception of stigma among those most in need."

The study found lower incidence of PTSD among service members sent to Afghanistan where combat has been less intense and troops are exposed to fewer bombings and ambushes by insurgents.

The VA had no immediate comment on the GAO finding but was preparing a statement for Congress. VA does not keep statistics on number of veterans receiving disability compensation for PTSD

or other mental illnesses. It does keep data on users of VA health care.

The GAO, in its 2002 report, blamed inconsistencies involving disability claim decisions on the need for reviewers to use their own judgment. VA acknowledges, the report said, "that in many cases two adjudicators of equal competence could review the same evidence but render different decisions, due to the difficult judgment often required."

Reese said VA officials are very aware of the inconsistency issue. Indeed, two recent VA task forces, one of which Reese served on, recommended corrective steps. None will take effect for a few more years.

To comment, write Military Update, P.O. Box 231111, Centennial, CO 80123-1111, e-mail milupdate@aol.com or visit www.militaryupdate.com

Army program helps soldiers heal injuries closer to home

By LISA BURGESS

Stars and Stripes

ARLINGTON, Va. — Many activated Army reservists who are injured or sick can now receive treatment near home, rather than being forced to stay on "medical hold" at a base that may be hundreds of miles away.

Army officials announced the new Community-Based Health Care Initiative program at the Pentagon on Thursday.

"I spent nine months at Fort Drum [N.Y., during premobilization] and didn't get to see my family that much," Staff Sgt. Said Rodriguez Scott, a 48-year-old target acquisition specialist for the Massachusetts National Guard's 101st Field Artillery. "Now I'm going home every night."

Scott, who works as a divorce mediator in his civilian life, received back, neck and arm injuries Sept. 17 in Afghanistan.

The program gives soldiers like Scott and Spc. Logan Brown, a 21-year-old from Arkansas, who was hit by shrapnel and received multiple gunshot wounds when his Humvee was attacked in Iraq, a chance to ease back into civilian life.

"When you're in constant danger every day of your life," Brown said, "you're on the defense all the time."

The program, in which reservists do light duty at their home station between medical appointments, gives soldiers "that calm-

ing time with your loved ones, and the stable order" of a familiar military environment, Brown said.

The initiative was devised after news stories surfaced in October 2003 about hundreds of Guardsmen and reservists who were stuck for months at Fort Stewart, Ga., waiting to be evaluated and treated.

Army officials blamed a system unprepared to deal with large numbers of reservists getting activated; 4,850 reservists wound up on medical hold.

In March, Reginald Brown, the Army's Assistant Secretary for Manpower and Reserve Affairs, assembled a task force to find a solution.

Brown's team developed a pilot program that opened "Community Health Care Organizations" in Arkansas, Florida, California, Massachusetts and Wisconsin. The first center opened in Florida in March, and all five were operational by late June, said Col. Michael Deaton, a family practice physician for the Army's Office of the Surgeon General.

Together, the five centers provide coverage for reservists who live in 23 states, Deaton said.

That is not enough to provide services for all 4,300 Army reservists who are now in medical hold status, Deaton said, just 1,100 of them are enrolled in the new program.

But with a program budget of \$23 million for fiscal 2005, the Army will open centers in Virgin-

ia, Alabama and Utah by March, Deaton said.

Most reservists will spend no more than one year in the voluntary program, although the Army may extend that time, Deaton said.

More severely injured soldiers from all components are eligible for a different Army program called the "Disabled Soldier Support System," or DSS3, at www.ArmyDSS3.org.

Sgt. Christopher Dunbar, a 25-year-old military policeman with the 810th MP Company, a Reserve unit based in Tampa, Fla., is another participant.

Dunbar was injured in a May 4 vehicle accident while providing security for a convoy moving to Tallil, Iraq. He was just five days short of a full year in Iraq when his lower jaw was broken and many of his top teeth were shattered beyond salvation.

Dunbar ended up back at Fort Stewart, Ga., placed on medical hold more than 300 miles away from his home in Tampa.

"I did not have a pleasant experience," Dunbar said. While the medical treatment was competent, "it felt like an assembly line."

After a physician realized the severity of the soldier's condition and sent him home for 30 days of convalescent leave, Dunbar was assigned to the Community-Based Health Care pilot program in Plant City, Fla.

Today, Dunbar works at his duty station at Plant City five



Above: Spc. Logan Brown, a 21-year-old from Alameda, Ark., left, listens as Col. Michael Deaton, a family practice physician for the Army's Office of the Surgeon General, discusses a new Community-Based Health Care Initiative in which Brown participates. Left: Sgt. Christopher Dunbar, a military policeman with the 810th MP Company, a Reserve unit based in Tampa, Fla., discusses the facial injuries he received while in Iraq.

PHOTOS BY LISA BURGESS
Stars and Stripes

days a week when he is not receiving medical treatment at MacDill Air Force Base.

"I had a hard time adjusting to civilian life when I got back," he said. "When you get back home, it's like someone pulling the parking break when you're going 100

miles per hour. Your face hits the windshield."

With the new program, "instead of getting thrown into the water, you have some floats on," Dunbar said.

E-mail Lisa Burgess at: burgessl@stripes.osd.mil

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IN THE STATES

Tommy Thompson resigns secretary post

BY RON FOURNIER

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy Thompson resigned Friday, broadening an exodus that has emptied more than half of President Bush's Cabinet before he starts his second term.

"It's time for me and my family to move on to the next chapter in our life," Thompson said at a news conference a few hours after giving his formal resignation to the president.

Mark McClellan, the govern-

ment's Medicare chief and brother of White House press secretary Scott McClellan, is Thompson's likely successor, officials said.

Thompson's resignation brings to eight the number of members of Bush's 15-member Cabinet who have left.

News of Thompson's departure came not long after Bush introduced former police commissioner Bernard Kerik as Tom Ridge's successor to be secretary of homeland security. When Thompson's exit becomes official, eight of the 15 members of Bush's Cabinet will have departed.

Kerik is the steady former military man who helped New York get back on its feet after the Sept. 11 terror attack.

"Bernie Kerik is one of the most accomplished and effective leaders of law enforcement in America," Bush said.

Kerik said what he witnessed in the days after the attacks would be etched in his mind if he were confirmed to lead the department.

"I know what is at stake," Kerik said.

"Both the memory of those courageous souls and the horrors I

saw inflicted upon our proud nation will serve as permanent reminders of the awesome responsibility you place in my charge," he said.

Bush also lost his ambassador to the United Nations, John Danforth, who is retiring.

Friday's ceremony has become a ritual as Bush rounds out his Cabinet for his second term. He stood in the Roosevelt Room with Kerik, as the nominee's wife and some of their children looked on.

Joe Albaugh, the former FEMA director who was mentioned as a candidate for the job,

said Kerik will "be drinking water from a fire hose for quite a while, but I know he's up to the challenge."

Mayor Rudolph Giuliani, Kerik's boss in city government and later at a private consulting firm, told the Associated Press the former undercover detective will bring many with-in the sprawling bureaucracy of homeland security.

"When you see him, he's a big strong guy and a black belt," said Giuliani. "What you get to know when you work with him is how smart he is... how effective and sophisticated a manager he is."

N.Y. police officer rescued from WTC on 9/11 retires

BY ERIN MCCLAM

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — A Port Authority rookie detective who was among the last people pulled out alive from the rubble of the World Trade Center on Sept. 11, 2001, retired from the force. "I was just a cop doing my job," he said during an emotional farewell Thursday.

Will Jimeno, 37, graduated from police academy and joined the Port Authority force in January 2001 in a ceremony at the trade center, where eight months later he nearly died.

With the collapsed ruins of Tower One around him, his left leg and foot crushed, Jimeno made his peace with God and thought mostly about the unborn second child he thought he would not live to see.

After 13 hours buried under 20 feet of rubble, Jimeno was pulled free.

"I am no different than anyone else," Jimeno said during a farewell ceremony at the Port Authority bus terminal that included a bagpipe-and-drum band.

Jimeno lost his composure only once during the ceremony — when he thanked retired Port Authority police Sgt. John McLoughlin, who was trapped even longer that day, for 22 hours.

Buried alive together, the two men talked, encouraging each other to survive. Jimeno looked at McLoughlin, who was dressed in a blazer and tie and still walks with a hobble, and said: "If I had it to do over again, I'd do it over again with you."

Jimeno, who still undergoes rehabilitation and is often in pain, said he is not certain what he will do in retirement, but that he would like to work with law enforcement, perhaps helping other officers who have been injured on duty.

"I'm going to miss the job," he said. "But it's not the job you miss so much as the family. You guys in blue."

Speakers at the ceremony recalled the 37 fallen Port Authority police officers — "immortal heroes," in the words of a chaplain's prayer — who were among the 2,749 people who died at the trade center.



Port Authority Police Detective William Jimeno, left, fights tears and embraces fellow officer Victor Otero during a ceremony for his final roll call in New York on Thursday. Jimeno was one of five officers who rushed to the World Trade Center on Sept. 11, 2001. When the towers collapsed he was buried for 13 hours and was one of the last people pulled out alive.

"Know this — that you will always be a member of this police department," Port Authority Chief of Department Christopher Trucillo said.

"You're one of us, and we'll never com-

pletely let you go."

In attendance were other Port Authority officials, Jimeno's parents, wife and two daughters — including Olivia, who was born Nov. 26, 2001.

Crowds turn out for tree lighting



The National Christmas tree is lit in front of the White House during the annual tree lighting ceremony in Washington on Thursday.

Bush pushes for deal on intelligence bill

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Bush told lawmakers Friday he is working as hard as possible to strike a deal on legislation to implement the Sept. 11 commission's recommendations on how to make the country safer from terrorist attack.

Bush told House and Senate members at the White House that "he's working on it as hard as he can," said Sen. Mike Enzi, R-Wyo., who briefed reporters after the session.

The president's task may have been made easier on Thursday when the nation's top military officer said lawmakers had adequately addressed a provision in the bill that he had objected to publicly.

Two influential House lawmakers — Armed Services Committee Chairman Duncan Hunter, R-Calif., and Judiciary Committee Chairman James Sensenbrenner, R-Wis. — were still opposing legislation that would create a national intelligence director and a

national counterterrorism center to face terrorist threats.

Negotiators are working down to the wire in hopes of getting an agreement so the House can vote Monday. If the House goes ahead, the Senate could act Tuesday and send the legislation to the White House for Bush's signature.

The president on Thursday called House Speaker Dennis Hastert, R-Ill., and Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist, R-Tenn., and told them he wants an intelligence bill completed. Bush was expected to sign a letter Friday to Congress laying out his wishes.

U.S.: Iran seeks ICBMs

WASHINGTON — Interception of several technology shipments to Iran has bolstered U.S. suspicions that Iran is secretly developing an intercontinental ballistic missile that could threaten Europe and possibly the United States.

An intelligence report this week to Congress said North Korea, China and parts of the former Soviet Union provided Iran through the end of last year with ballistic-missile equipment, technology and experts.

The report said Iran was "also pursuing long-range ballistic missiles."

Moussaoui trial delayed

ALEXANDRIA, Va. — Terrorism defendant Zacarias Moussaoui will not go to trial anytime soon because of pretrial disputes over his access to al-Qaida witnesses and his eligibility for the death penalty, a trial judge said Friday.

Prosecutors had asked that the trial begin May 31, but U.S. District Judge Leonie Brinkema denied the request. Moussaoui, the only U.S. defendant charged in the conspiracy that led to the Sept. 11 attacks, is being held at Alexandria's detention center in the Washington suburbs.

From The Associated Press

Panel nixes proposal for new libido patch

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — In a move that could chill excitement about experimental drugs to treat female sexual dysfunction, federal advisers refused to endorse a new testosterone patch for women.

Procter & Gamble sought to market the Intrinsa patch to women with impaired libido due to surgical removal of the ovaries. The company told a Food and Drug Administration advisory panel that the drug had not raised significant safety concerns in clinical trials.

However, the advisory committee was unanimous Thursday. More research was needed.

The FDA is not bound by the committee's recommendation, though the agency usually follows such guidance. An FDA decision on Intrinsa is expected in a few weeks.

Panel member Dr. Steven Nissen, a Cleveland Clinic Foundation cardiologist, said he worried

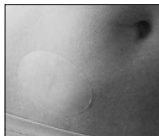
about exposing millions of American women to heart attack and stroke risks to gain a marginal increase in sexual satisfaction.

Clinical trials showed that women who applied the patch to their abdomen twice weekly had one more "satisfying sexual event" per four weeks than did women given a placebo, according to the data presented to the advisory panel.

Nissen said Procter & Gamble needs to study at least 5,000 women for several years to see if the testosterone patch unacceptably raises cardiovascular risk. Heart disease is already the No. 1 killer of American women.

Nissen acknowledged the drug's potential. "The number of men who take Viagra is enormous," he said. "Why would women be any different? I think there's a huge demand for this agent."

Still, agency officials noted a lack of controlled safety data for women who had used Intrinsa longer than six months.



PROCTER AND GAMBLE CO./AP

Federal health advisers said Thursday that the Intrinsa patch should not be approved until more studies are completed.

DNC tops in fund raising

By SHARON THEIMER

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Republicans kept the White House and control of Congress this year, but the Democratic National Committee can take some solace in an unexpected victory: It outraised its Republican rival by millions of dollars.

Figures the DNC filed with the Federal Election Commission on Thursday showed the Democratic committee took in about \$17 million more than the Republican National Committee from January 2003 to late November.

DNC Chairman Terry McAuliffe said he considered the fund raising — combined with a lack of debt — all the more remarkable because the party finished the 2000 presidential race with \$18 million in bills to pay.

"We now have money in the bank, we have no debt, we have millions and millions of small donors, grass-roots. And we're very proud of what we did," McAuliffe said in a telephone interview.

The DNC raised \$402 million from January 2003 through Nov. 22, the period covered in its new campaign finance report. The Republican National Committee said it took in \$385 million and wasn't

questioning the Democratic committee's financial edge.

"I think that you had an energized and engaged electorate this election cycle on both sides of the aisle, and that's reflected in the fund-raising totals that you're seeing," RNC spokesman Brian Jones said.

Still, added Jones, "The bottom line at the end of the day is we won. We did what we needed to do." Besides keeping the White House, the Republican Party strengthened its House and Senate majorities in the Nov. 2 election.

The Democratic total is noteworthy in part because the DNC had been operating at a multimillion-dollar disadvantage. After a financial surge during President Bill Clinton's years in the White House, it found itself with no sitting president or congressional majority leaders to woo donors.

Strategists in both parties had predicted that a campaign finance law imposing new contribution limits after the 2002 elections would hit the Democratic Party harder than the Republicans.

The Democrats historically were more reliant on the unlimited checks from unions and others that the new law banned, while the Republican Party was much better at collecting lots of small donations.

Mother indicted for capital murder

McKINNEY, Texas — A 35-year-old Plano woman who admitted to killing her baby by severing the girl's arms has been indicted on a capital murder charge.

A Collin County grand jury on Thursday issued the indictment against Dena Schlosser, who remains in the county jail.

Schlosser admitted to a 911 operator on Nov. 22 that she severed the arms of 10-month-old Margaret, who died shortly afterward in a hospital.

Schlosser, who was treated for postpartum depression during a Child Protective Services neglect investigation early this year, was found in her apartment, covered in blood, still holding a knife and listening to a church hymn.

A judge granted CPS temporary custody of the Schlossers' other girls — ages 6 and 9 — after CPS determined their father failed to protect his children from their mother. CPS will ask a judge Friday to extend temporary custody indefinitely.

From The Associated Press

Message for our men and women in uniform...

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John Smith, tunnel finishers lead engineer, points out a leak in a roof girdy for the Big Dig highway tunnel project in downtown Boston, during a media site visit at the tunnel Friday.

Work ongoing to halt all seeps and leaks in Boston's Big Dig walls

BY THEO EMERY
The Associated Press

BOSTON — As the city sleeps overhead, teams of men and women clad in white jumpsuits labor underground in the dark recesses of the Big Dig, waterproofing the tunnel where water drips and seeps.

Early Friday morning, there were four teams working in the cramped bays atop the Interstate 93 tunnel where the walls join the rock, pumping rubbery grout into joints to stop the hundreds of leaks in the \$14.6 billion project.

The Turnpike Authority ferried reporters into the tunnel to look at the waterproofing work that has been ongoing since the tunnel's completion, and that will likely continue throughout its life.

Turnpike Authority Chairman Matthew J. Amorello said that the nighttime waterproofing was fixing a different problem than the massive leak that erupted in September because of a construction flaw in the tunnel wall.

The eight-inch gusher, which backed up traffic for 10 miles, was the result of water forcing its

way through a fissure in the concrete created by debris.

That leak was the subject of a hearing Thursday on Beacon Hill, during which officials with the engineering firm Bechtel-Parsons Brinckerhoff apologized for not fixing the problem when they had two chances to do so.

The Turnpike Authority loaded reporters and photographers into vans, drove them into the tunnel and deposited them in the closed, leftmost two lanes of the northbound tunnel. The reporters were loaded onto a scissor lift that raised them through the roof into the overhead exhaust area called the plenum. From there, firemen and workmen guided them through the gloom to one of the 500 or so leaking spots.

Engineer John Smith pointed to where the groundwater has been seeping down the wall.

Engineers are stopping the leaks by drilling holes into the old waterproofing, inserting a tube, then forcing quick-hardening grout into the holes using a hydraulic pump.

"We don't want any water. We're going to get them to a watertight condition," Smith said.

Verona Johnston, oldest American, dead at age 114

The Associated Press

WORTHINGTON, Ohio — America's oldest person, a 114-year-old woman who had the thinnest file in her doctor's office, died.

Verona Johnston died Wednesday at home in Worthington, said her daughter, Julie Johnson.

Johnson said her mother was "keen to go," and that shortly before her death she said: "Dying is hard, but everyone has to do it, and I hope I do it well."

Johnson moved to Ohio at age 98 to live with Johnson and her husband, both in their 80s.

She was born Aug. 6, 1890, in Indiana, Iowa. She was the eighth

of nine children born to Civil War veteran Joseph Calhoun and Emma Speer Calhoun.

Johnson voted in every election since women earned the right in 1920, often casting an absentee ballot in November.

Relatives said Johnston lived a wholesome life, rarely visited doctors and never used the deductible on her health insurance.

Johnston attended Drake University in Des Moines, Iowa, where she studied Latin and graduated in 1912. At the time, tuition was \$54 per year.

Johnston taught Latin in high schools across Iowa. She married Harry Johnston, an Iowa physician who died in 1970.

Prescription drug use steadily rising in U.S.

BY RANDOLPH E. SCHMID
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Americans are cramming their medicine chests ever fuller in the struggle to lower cholesterol, treat depression, reduce inflammation and ease other illnesses.

More than 40 percent of the population is taking at least one prescription drug and one person in every six takes three or more, the government said Thursday. Both figures are up about 5 percentage points in recent years.

"The fact is that we have more drugs available that actually do help people," said Dr. Ellsworth C. Seeley, who teaches medicine at the University of Kentucky. He cited drugs to deal with high blood pressure, cholesterol and help diabetics, among others.

Dennis Shea, a professor at Pennsylvania State University's college of health and human development, found mixed news in the report.

"Certainly, in the 1990s there were lots of advances in being better able to target drugs to conditions," he said. "But there is that danger that people are overmedicating — taking so many medications that they can interact, make one ineffective or cause harm."

And, he added, "Americans seem to look for that magic pill, don't they?" The benefits of improved diet and exercise can extend beyond any single ailment, he added.

Seeley said the increase may result from some overmedication, but he believes that has sometimes been exaggerated.

Many elderly need several drugs to maintain their standard of living, both agreed.

"And there are drugs that are not lifesaving drugs in that sense — such as drugs for migraine headaches — that have certainly improved the quality of life for migraine sufferers," Seeley added.

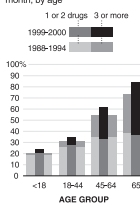
The annual report on the nation's health found an average of just over 44 percent of all Americans had taken at least one prescription drug, and 16.5 percent

Medicated America

A government report on Americans' health found that more than 40 percent take at least one prescription drug.

Prescription drug use

Percentage of Americans reporting prescription drug use in the past month, by age



Sources: Centers for Disease Control and AP

took at least three, in 1999-2000, the most recent data available.

Those rates were up from an average use of 39 percent and 19.2 percent between 1988 and 1994, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported. Those were the most recent data available.

The report, "Health, United States 2004," presents the latest data collected by CDC, the National Center for Health Statistics and dozens of other federal health agencies, academic and profes-

sional health associations, and international health organizations.

While the report is dated 2004, it uses the most recent data available, resulting in findings from several different years on different subjects.

Americans' life expectancy increased to 77.3 years in 2002, a record, and deaths from heart disease, cancer and stroke, the three leading killers, are all down 1 percent to 3 percent, the analysis said.

Infant mortality in 2002 was 7.0 infant deaths per 1,000 live births, up from 6.8 in 2001 and the first increase since 1988. — The study found spending on health climbed 9.3 percent in 2002 to \$1.6 trillion.

The prevalence of obesity in people ages 20 to 74 increased from 47 percent in 1976-80 to 65 percent in 1999-2002, the report said.

Prescription drugs, which make up about one-tenth of the total medical bill, were the fastest growing expenditure. The price of drugs rose 5 percent.

Nearly half of all women reported taking at least one prescription drug during the month before being surveyed — 49 percent — compared with 39 percent in 1999. Usage peaked at 84 percent for people ages 65 and over, with the top rate at 89 percent for black women over 65.

Even for people under age 18, however, nearly one-fourth, 24.1 percent — were taking at least one prescription medication. The rate rose to 34.7 percent between age 18 and 44 and for those 45 to 64 it was 62.1 percent.

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IN THE WORLD

Italy train collision

TARANTO, Italy — A freight train smashed into the back of a passenger train in southeastern Italy, injuring 55 people, police said Friday.

At least part of the passenger train derailed in the crash at about 10 p.m. on Thursday at Palagianello, about 13 miles north of Taranto in the Puglia region, the Carabinieri paramilitary police said.

Six of the 55 injured have been hospitalized, including a 17-year-old boy reported in serious condition, the police said.

Further details were not immediately available.

Bosnian robbery

BANJA LUKA, Bosnia-Herzegovina — Two robbers dressed as NATO soldiers stole almost \$1.3 million from a truck carrying money for an Austrian bank, police said Thursday.

The robbery Wednesday came less than a day before NATO's peacekeeping in Bosnia formally ended. A European Union force took over from NATO on Thursday.

The two robbers — who have not been identified by police — set up a fake checkpoint in the northwestern village of Ljubacevo and stopped a truck carrying money for Raiffeisen, an Austrian bank, said Rade Mutic, a police spokesman. The money was being transported to the Bosnian treasury, and police are investigating the theft, Mutic said.

Land mines summit

NAIROBI, Kenya — Delegates to the first five-year review of an international treaty to ban anti-personnel land mines adopted a five-year plan Friday for clearing mines, destroying stockpiles and improving care for victims.

African leaders said Thursday that mine-producing countries had no justification for staying out of the treaty and, until they came on board, the goal of a mine-free world would remain unattainable.

Delegates formally adopted the five-year plan that sets out how countries can reach the goal of eliminating land mines by suggesting ways of funding stockpile destruction and how to care for victims, most of whom have long-term needs.

Japan missile research

TOKYO — Japan plans to research and develop a sea-launched missile in an apparent reversal of a post-World War II policy that permits the military to maintain only force for defense, the Japanese official media reported Friday.

A new midterm defense plan for the year beginning April 1, 2005, includes research for a surface-to-surface missile with a range of several hundred kilometers, the national Yomiuri newspaper reported, citing anonymous Defense Agency sources.

Japan's postwar pacifist constitution renounces war and the use of military force in settling international disputes.

The government's top spokesman denied a major shift in policy.

From The Associated Press

Ukraine Court calls election invalid

Supreme Court rules that another run-off to be held by December 26

BY NATASHA LISOVA

The Associated Press

KIEV, Ukraine — The Supreme Court declared the results of Ukraine's disputed presidential run-off election invalid on Friday and ruled that the run-off should be repeated by Dec. 26, bringing cheers and fireworks from tens of thousands of opposition supporters massed in Kiev's main square.

The ruling, made after five days of hearings by the court's 18 justices, was a major victory for opposition leader Viktor Yushchenko, who had rejected the government's demands that an entirely new election be held.

The opposition had pinned its hopes on the court's ruling in its bid to overturn the results of the Nov. 21 run-off vote in which Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich was declared the winner. The opposition said the vote was rigged to cheat Yushchenko of victory.

Fireworks cracked in Independence Square, and the opposition supporters who have massed there for nearly two weeks waved orange flags and chanted "Yushchenko! Yushchenko!" once the ruling was announced.

"This is a great victory of all people who have been standing at the square, a great victory for Ukrainian democracy," said Mykola Katerinichuk, the Yushchenko lawyer who wrote the appeal.

The court decision was a blow to outgoing President Leonid Kuchma — faced with a spiraling political crisis that undermined his hopes to ensure he is succeeded by a supporter. Kuchma had been pressing for an entirely new election, apparently in hopes of replacing Yanukovich with a stronger candidate.

Both sides have promised to abide by the court's ruling. There was no immediate reaction from Yanukovich or his supporters.



A supporter of Ukrainian opposition leader Viktor Yushchenko dances as protesters gather in front of the parliament building in Kiev early Friday. The Supreme Court ruled the election results invalid and the run-off should be held by Dec. 26.

Representatives from Yanukovich and the Central Election Commission left the courthouse before the judges announced their decision.

Presiding Judge Anatoly Yarema said a new run-off vote should be held by Dec. 26.

The original runoff triggered a massive political crisis, with tens of thousands of Yushchenko supporters maintaining a round-the-clock vigil in the capital for the 12th day Friday, as well as a blockade of official buildings that has paralyzed the government.

Philippines' bad weather leaves many needing aid

BY OLIVER TEVES

The Associated Press

REAL, Philippines — Helicopters delivered food to famished survivors and picked up casualties as flash floods began to recede, revealing the magnitude of a disaster triggered by back-to-back storms that left more than 650 people dead and nearly 400 missing in the northern Philippines.

Soldiers who reached an isolated Pacific Ocean village reported finding about 100 dead. In the worst-hit town of Real, in nearby Quezon province, TV images showed bodies buried beneath mud and debris with only the soles of their feet jutting out. Survivors described the stench of rotting bodies.

Some 170,000 have fled their homes for higher ground. Health authorities urged local officials to bury the dead quickly to avoid disease.

President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo appealed to the nation to "come together...[and] reach out to those who need help."

"We need one great love to deliver the relief supplies, find the missing, rescue the isolated, feed the hungry and shelter the homeless," Arroyo said in a televised statement.

The extent of the devastation was wrought by a tropical storm that blew through northeastern provinces late Monday, killing at



Two government soldiers pass along an infant into the other end of the line at a landslide site Friday, as the typhoon-ravaged town of Real, east of Manila, remains isolated. More than 600 people had been killed by Friday, with nearly 400 still missing, military officials said.

least 527 people, military Chief of Staff Gen. Efren Aban said Friday.

Hardest hit was Quezon province, where 484 bodies have been recovered and 352 people were still missing, he said.

Typhoon Nanmadol then struck the same region Thursday.

While Quezon province bore the brunt of the storms, about 100 people were found dead in Dumanigan, about 60 miles northeast of Manila, Maj. Gen. Romeo Tolentino told ABS-CBN TV. It was unclear where they died in Monday's storm or the typhoon.

"Our soldiers now are helping the populace to recover the survivors and bury the dead," said Tolentino, the regional military com-

mander. He said landslides were blocking the road to the village.

The typhoon claimed at least 30 lives in Aurora province, the Office of Civil Defense reported.

In Real, Mayor Arsenio Ramalosa said there was little typhoon damage, but that the Monday storm left scores of dead.

Nanmadol made landfall late Thursday with sustained winds of 115 mph and gusts of up to 138 mph. It hit the northern half of the main island of Luzon at 21 mph before veering north toward Taiwan early Friday.

Taiwan's Central Weather Bureau said the typhoon would bring heavy rains over the weekend and warned ships in the Taiwan Strait to be careful.

EU pushes Turkey to recognize Cyprus

The Associated Press

ANKARA, Turkey — European Parliament President Josep Borrell appealed to Turkey on Friday to recognize the government of Cyprus officially as the European Union prepares to decide whether to open membership negotiations with Ankara.

EU leaders are expected to set a date to start membership talks with Turkey during their Dec. 16-17 summit, but Turkey faces increasing pressure to recognize Cyprus as a state, because the Mediterranean island nation — which joined the EU in May — will be part of any negotiations on Turkish membership.

"In order to negotiate and hold talks with somebody one has to recognize that person... and therefore negotiating with the EU implies negotiating with Cyprus and recognizing Cyprus," Borrell told at a joint news conference with Turkish Parliament Speaker Bulent Arinc.

Earlier Friday, visiting Belgian Foreign Minister Karel De Gucht also stressed that the Cyprus problem has to be solved.

"The question of Cyprus is not a precondition to open talks for us, but it is evident that this problem has to be solved," De Gucht said.

Turkey said recognizing Cyprus was not one of the criteria for EU membership.

Looking at the news

A weekly sampling of U.S. editorial cartoons

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STEVE GREENBERG/Scripta Howard

Victims still fighting for justice in Bhopal

20 years after world's worst industrial disaster, people still weep while others move on

By NIRMALA GEORGE
The Associated Press

BHOPAL, India — Twenty years after a cloud of deadly gas shrouded the central Indian city of Bhopal, about 1,500 demonstrators and survivors marched through the streets on Friday, demanding justice for those still suffering the effects of the world's worst industrial disaster.

The crowd — spanning all ages of Indian society — shouted and waved signs as they walked through Bhopal's streets.

"Never again should a Bhopal happen anywhere in the world," Balkrishna Nandev, a rights activist, told the crowd that gathered outside the graffiti-covered walls of the abandoned Union Carbide factory. "However long it takes, our struggles to get justice will go on."

On Dec. 3, 1984, about 40 tons of poisonous gas leaked from the pesticide plant, killing at least 10,000 people and affecting more than 555,000 others, although the exact number of victims has never been clear. Many died over the years due to gas-related illnesses, like lung cancer, kidney failure and liver disease.

Despite Friday's flurry of attention, few people here believed the victims would be remembered very long once the television crews, journalists and organizers left.



Survivors of the Union Carbide tragedy hold photographs of relatives who died in the gas leak during a candlelight vigil on the 20th anniversary of the tragedy in India on Thursday.

Organizers had predicted a turnout of several thousand people, but in the end only about 1,500 came, said Hari Narayan, a local police officer.

Earlier in the day, at least three protest rallies organized by different groups of Bhopal residents and aid groups working with disaster victims marched through the city before arriving at the factory gates.

"Don't forget the victims of the genocide in Bhopal!" "Death to Dow!" and "We will fight, we will win!" the protesters shouted. Their banners carried similar slogans, accusing Union Carbide and Dow Chemical Co. of inadequate compensation and medical help for the victims.

Another group of protesters staged a

mock funeral procession for Warren Anderson, then-CEO of Union Carbide. A straw-filled effigy of Anderson was later set afire amid shouted slogans.

While millions of dollars in compensation has been set aside, much of the money has been tied up by bureaucratic and legal issues and many people have received little or nothing.

"For the last 20 years, I've been visiting the hospital and government offices, begging for compensation to take care of my two children," said Leelaben Aherwar, whose baby girl survived the gas leak but immediately afterward began showing signs of mental and physical retardation.

Her son, born a few years later, suffers from similar problems.

So far, she has received about \$360,000. Union Carbide insists the tragedy was not to sabotage by a disgruntled employee and not shoddy safety standards or faulty plant design, as claimed by many activists.

Union Carbide said in a statement that it spent more than \$2 million when it sold its stake in Union Carbide India Ltd. and the local company was renamed Eveready Industries.

Gas explosion badly burns 6 in community north of Acapulco

The Associated Press

ACAPULCO, Mexico — Five hundred cylinders of LP gas exploded at a distributorship early Thursday in a community north of Acapulco, killing one person and seriously burning several other workers.

The 45- and 70-pound cylinders had been loaded onto four delivery trucks, which were destroyed in the blast, Acapulco Civil Protection Director Arturo Sabas de la

Rosa said.

Gilberto Benitez, a local official, said it appeared the workers were dragging a gas tank when it exploded, causing other tanks to do the same.

The accident happened before dawn at Gas Mundial, or "Worldwide Gas," a distributorship located in the city of Tierra Colorada, 45 miles north of the Pacific resort city of Acapulco.

Several workers were hospital-

ized with third-degree burns. At least 800 gallons of gas stored at the site were not affected, de la Rosa said.

It took fire fighters and rescue officials from several surrounding cities about three hours to control the fire resulting from the explosion.

Also Thursday, in eastern Mexico, a fuel tank being used to help repave a highway exploded, killing two workers. Officials were investigating the cause.

Japan apologizes

TOKYO — A top Japanese government official apologized Friday to two former sex slaves forced to serve Japan's military during World War II, an official said.

"From the bottom of my heart, I apologize and regret the harm done to the honor and dignity of women during the war," Chief Cabinet Secretary Hironori Hosoda said in a meeting with the women, according to Yu Kameoka, an official from the prime minister's office.

The two women — identified by Kyodo News as Yi Yongsu, 75, from South Korea and Beatriz Tuzon, 74, from the Philippines — were in Tokyo as part of an awareness campaign to recount the abuse they suffered as sex slaves, known in Japan by the euphemism "comfort women," who were forced to work in front-line military brothels.

Playboy comes to China

SHANGHAI, China — Iconic brand Playboy plans to open a club in China's commercial capital of Shanghai — a first for the communist nation which still bans the company's flagship men's magazine.

A formal announcement of the move was expected at a news conference by Playboy Enterprises International Inc. and Shanghai Entertainment Ltd. planned for Tuesday.

Beauty contests, once frowned upon, have been widely embraced in recent years, with the southern city of Sanya this week hosting the Miss World pageant for the second year running.

However, China still bans the sale of Playboy and other magazines featuring photographs of naked women, although some

such volumes are sold legally as art books.

Stolen bust returned

OSLO, Norway — The stolen head of a just-portraying Norwegian artist Edward Munch has been returned to the statue — polished and sporting a neck tie, police Thursday said.

The head of the bust by Norwegian sculptor Arne Durban, one of the country's best known artists, was stolen Nov. 18 from near Munch's grave in Our Saviour's Cemetery.

It was found about the bust again Thursday. Police had no comment about who may have stolen it, but the newspaper Dagbladet, which first reported the return on its Web site, speculated that it may have been a prank.

The theft came nearly three months after two of Munch's masterpieces, "The Scream" and "Madonna," were stolen from Oslo museum bearing his name.

Draft dodging conviction

ATHENS, Greece — A Greek bookkeeper named a terrorist who is serving multiple life terms for his role in assassination of nearly two dozen people was sentenced Thursday to an additional two years for draft dodging.

Dimitris Koufodinas, 46, chief assassin for the November 17 terrorist group and also known as "Poison Hand," was convicted by a military court for avoiding the draft when he turned 18.

Military service is mandatory for all Greek men aged 18 to 54. November 17 was blamed for 23 killings and dozens of bomb and rocket attacks since 1975. Its victims included diplomats and military officials from Britain, Turkey and the United States.

From The Associated Press

Desperate Mexican town pins hopes on salesman to eliminate rat problem

The Associated Press

ATASCADEROS, Mexico — This remote farming town in northwestern Mexico has tried just about everything to rid itself of rats: cats, poison and even cash rewards for killing the thousands of rodents infesting businesses and destroying the corn harvest.

So when retired Massachusetts salesman Stephen Petren called and said he had a foolproof method, local officials took him up on it.

Petren, 71, from Holliston, Mass., decided he could help this town of 3,000 in the rugged Tarahumara mountains after reading an article about farmers battling a plague of rats. He flew to El Paso, Texas, where he met Mexican officials who drove him 16 hours to Atascaderos.

Petren came armed with mol-

ses, empty oil drums, paper and string for a method he learned in 1951 from his biology professor, a World War II soldier.

With some translation help from this reporter, Petren showed the men how the open end of the drum had to be covered tightly with paper and secured with string. A mix of molasses and corn would be placed on top of the drum as bait and a ladder would have to be built so the rats could have easy access.

The magic, Petren said, consists of cutting a cross through the paper, filling a third of the drum with water and removing the last step on the ladder.

"The rats will come to get their dessert, and they will be forced to jump and will fall in the drum and drown," Petren said as the men looked at him with blank expressions.



Victor Vargas, inhabitant of Atascaderos, State Chihuahua, holds dead rats found in his farm on Monday.

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Insanity claim

FL TAMPA — Debra Lafave, the middle school teacher accused of having sex with a 14-year-old student, will claim she was insane at the time of the alleged encounters.

Lafave's attorney, John Fitzgibbons, announced in court that he would file notice of an insanity defense "in the near future."

"Debbie has some profound emotional issues that are not her fault," Fitzgibbons said afterward.

A cadre of TV camera crews turned out to capture the 24-year-old Lafave, blond and blue-eyed, as she entered and left the courtroom, flanked by her lawyer and family.

Gone was the smoky eye shadow and red lipstick that have characterized her image on national TV and on the Internet.

Instead, Lafave showed up for court Tuesday with muted make-up, a somber black suit and heels, her hair demurely pinned back. A small golden crucifix hung from her neck.

Lafave has pleaded not guilty to four felony counts of lewd and lascivious battery and one count of lewd and lascivious exhibition, each of which carry a maximum 15-year prison term.

Lights out for Christmas

OH EASTLAKE — Don't blame the Grinch or Ebenezer Scrooge if this northeast Ohio city isn't quite as jolly and bright for Christmases to come.

City officials say money — or a lack of it — is causing them to put costly holiday decorations up for sale.

In the last 10 years, Eastlake has spent \$130,000 on holiday lights, displays and banners. Nearly 50 percent of the cost was offset by donations.

"In the foreseeable future, we're not going to have the kind of money to put on that kind of display," Mayor Ted Andzrejewski said recently. "I like the Christmas season, but we have to do it within our means."

Andzrejewski said he's willing to sell the decorations for the right price. His community about 20 miles northeast of Cleveland has a \$3.2 million budget deficit.

Available items include snow-bell-throwing teddy bears that cost the city \$7.025, an animated giraffe and a lighted peacock.

Paper sale

PA PHILADELPHIA — At the start of the holiday shopping season, The Philadelphia Inquirer inadvertently offered an early bird special of its own.

The early edition of Sunday's Inquirer, which is published on Saturday, was mistakenly priced at 50 cents instead of the usual \$1.50.

"Mistakes happen," said Amanda Bennett, The Inquirer's editor. "I wish that wasn't the case, but it was. We'll move on."

Major retailers were notified of the mistake Saturday morning.

Protesters said retailers who lost money as a result of the misprint would be compensated. About 80,000 copies of the early edition, also known as the bulldog edition, are sold at newsstands each week. The paper's total Sun-



AMERICAN ROUNDUP

day circulation is about 742,000, said Probst.

Gambling crackdown

AL MONTGOMERY — After a five-month review of electronic gambling, Attorney General Troy King announced he will try to shut down the newest gambling site in rural White Hall. He also warned two dog tracks to replace electronic machines he considers illegal.

King, who said he personally opposes gambling, said he could not ban all electronic bingo games and some gambling foes wanted.

Charitable dog

KS OLATHE — The Salvation Army's 20,000 shiny red kettles and trademark bell-ringers are easy to spot, but one helper stands out — on four legs.

Providence, a 6-year-old German wire-haired pointer, is in her third season as a Salvation Army volunteer.

She's able to do all the things her colleagues do. Providence rings a bell with her mouth and has also learned to take donations and put them in the kettle.

"This is not a drooly-mouth dog," said her owner, Penny Shaffer.

For a while, however, it looked as though the dog's charity work

would end.

In April, a tumor was discovered on the roof of her mouth. It was removed, but another one appeared 12 days later.

"They gave her zip chances," said Shaffer.

Surgery removed Providence's second tumor, three teeth and part of her upper jaw. Her jaw was reconstructed, and she had to be on a feeding tube for more than a month while she healed.

She went through 18 radiation treatments, and there's been no recurrence of cancer.

And on Thursday, Providence returns to her bell-ringing post.

Bordello back in action

NV VIRGINIA CITY — The state's first legal bordello is set to reopen, but the notorious Mustang Ranch name may be shut out of the action.

The Storey County Commission has granted a brothel license to Wild Horse Resort & Spa owner Lance Gilman to operate a second brothel next to the Wild Horse about four miles east of the former Mustang property.

The government seized the Mustang in 1999 after its owners were convicted of racketeering. Gilman bought it on eBay for \$145,000 and moved the Mustang buildings to the Wild Horse site.

The commission will decide at its next meeting whether to let Gilman keep the Mustang Ranch name, which he says was part of his purchase.

Oscar Williams, the owner of Ambient Entertainment of Reno, claims to have the rights to the trademark for clothing and other merchandise and David Burgess, the owner of Old Bridge Ranch, also objects to the use of the name. His brothel is located next to the former Mustang Ranch site.

Gilman said he has spent about \$1.5 million on site preparation and moving the old brothel to his land.

While the original Mustang has 50 rooms, Wild Horse madam Susan Austin said the new one would open with about 20.

Insurance rebates

NJ TRENTON — More than 360,000 New Jerseyans will receive rebates from the state's second-largest auto insurer, the Department of Banking and Insurance announced. New Jersey Manufacturers is issuing a \$59 million special dividend to state policyholders. The average rebate for people who have held the company's policies since 2001 or before is \$173, NIM said.

Policyholders who enrolled after 2001 will get an average rebate of \$94.

Recycling increases

WI MADISON — Residential recycling is on the rise after several years of decline, state data show. Residents recycled an average 267 pounds of waste last year, 6 pounds more than the previous year. State recycling chief Cynthia Moore said the market for recycled material is getting stronger. Overall, Wisconsin residents recycled 735,610 tons of material last year, an increase of about 21,000 tons from 2002.



Early snowblowing

Neighbors Walt Goodman, left, and Gerald Thilmany team up with snow shovel and snowblower to clear out a neighbor's snow covered driveway in Duluth, Minn.



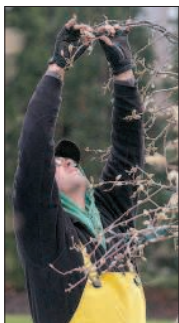
In memory

Sgt. Layne Mari, left, of Eldridge, Iowa, watches as Weber Stone President Mike Dautmeyer guides one of two identical stone memorials into a CH-47 Chinook helicopter from Company F, 106th Aviation of the Iowa National Guard at the Weber Stone Company quarry in Stone City, Iowa. The memorials are destined for the unit's facilities in Davenport and Peoria, Ill., in remembrance of the three crewmembers killed and two wounded near Fallujah, Iraq, on Nov. 2, 2003.



Blown away

High winds caught the top half of the Cowtown cowboy to topple over, leaving just the legs standing, in Pilesgrove Township, N.J.



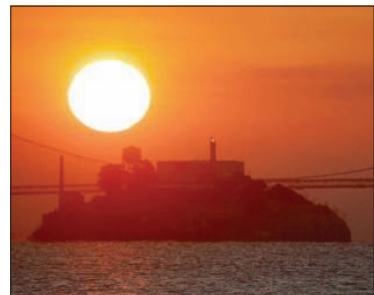
Trimming the tree

Rob Bingham, who works for Hollywood Lights, puts up decorative lights at Gene Coulton Park in Renton, Wash., while getting ready for the Clam Lights 2004, which runs through the holiday season.



Brave firefighter
time of the blaze.

Diboll volunteer firefighter Joe Parish chops through the burning attic of a house fire in Diboll, Texas. The house was unoccupied at the time of the blaze.



Looks warm, but isn't

The sun rises Thursday over Alcatraz Island and the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge as seen from Sausalito, Calif. Recent low temperatures have been breaking records, damaging the state's strawberry crop and raised concerns about the health of the homeless.



You're what you eat

Marcia Rondonwuu pretends to place a bunch of bananas on her head during a healthy diet class at Wegmans Supermarket in Woodbridge, N.J.



Setting up

Construction work for President Bush's inauguration ceremony is under way on the West Front of the U.S. Capitol in Washington, D.C.

Weather vacancy

MN TOWER — You betcha it gets cold up here, but how will we know how cold this year? This small northeastern Minnesota town that recorded the state's record low in 1996 — a pretty nippy 60 degrees below zero — is without an official weather observer.

The woman who previously held the post left in mid-October; she'd reported Tower's daily temperature and precipitation since 1972.

In the meantime, highs and lows are being recorded at a building in town that stands at a higher elevation than the official weather station. Colder air typically drains into the valley.

Tower, about 35 miles south of the Canadian border, and nearby Embarrass usually vie for Minnesota's daily low, forecasters say.

Both towns are generally apart by a degree or two.

Mike Stewart, meteorologist in charge of the National Weather Service in Duluth, said the agency is searching for a replacement to fill the spot in the valley.

Embarrass still has an official observer, Stewart said. The low there was 8 below zero Monday.

St. Helens pollution

WA VANCOUVER — Since it began erupting in October, Mount St. Helens has been Washington's worst air polluter. The volcano spews 50 to 250 tons of sulfur dioxide into the air each day, the U.S. Geological Survey said. That compares to about 120 tons a day from all the state's industries combined. Sulfur dioxide is the gas that causes acid rain and contributes to haze.

Boar killings

PA PITTSBURGH — News that the Pig Farm, a private hunting ground, is best known for its immense pigs probably doesn't come as a great surprise.

What is surprising is that someone would go to the trouble of sneaking to the perimeter of the grounds, shooting and killing a dozen or so wild boars, then leaving the carcasses behind.

"I don't think it would be an accident," said Mario Schiavo, a Pennsylvania State Police trooper.

Whoever killed the animals, Schiavo said, would have probably shot through, or above, the electrified fence that surrounds the hunting ground, which is 80 acres, or the size of about 60 football fields. As for motive, Schiavo said it could have been a prank, or someone who's angry with the park's owner, or someone who really, intensely dislikes boars.

"Who knows?" Schiavo said. "People don't have anything better to do than to cause grief for other people, I guess."

Pension predicament

WV CHARLESTON — The West Virginia Supreme Court says the state can't sell \$3.9 billion in bonds to shore up its pension funds without voter approval. The justices say the bond sale would violate the state constitution, which requires a voter-approved amendment before the state takes on new debt. Gov. Bob Wise argued that the bonds would refine existing debt and not constitute new debt.

Business boom

NV LAS VEGAS — New Census data shows Nevada led the nation in growth of so-called "nonemployer businesses" in 2002.

The survey found just over 128,000 of these businesses, which have one or more owners but no employees. The state reported a 7.9 percent rise from 2001. Nationally, the number of nonemployer businesses grew 3.9 percent to 17.6 million in 2002.

Flu shots for elderly

MA BOSTON — State residents 65 and older now qualify for flu shots under eased restrictions announced by the Department of Public Health. Earlier this fall, the state responded to the vaccine shortage by barring adults under 75 from receiving the shot. Officials said more vaccine has become available lately.

Pheasants safe for now

SD PIERRE — A judge struck down a new state law that let road hunters shoot at pheasants after they leave the roadway and fly over adjacent private land. Two ranch couples argued that the 2003 law was unconstitutional because it made private property available to the public without compensation. The state has said the law doesn't take private property for public use.

Dragging death

TX HOUSTON — A man who was dragged along a freeway by his girlfriend's car in rush-hour traffic, then thrown into the air, has died at a hospital from his injuries.

The victim's arm may have been severed — or at least badly mangled — in the ordeal, said police. The 43-year-old man's girlfriend told investigators she blacked out and doesn't remember the event.

Dewey Dale Whitehead of Buna died at Ben Taub Hospital around 8:30 p.m. Tuesday night.

Whitehead and his girlfriend had driven to Houston from the East Texas town for a doctor's appointment on Tuesday. The woman suddenly stopped the car in the right lane of traffic of the East Freeway shortly after 3 p.m. Witnesses said Whitehead, who was in the front passenger's seat, got out and walked around to the driver's side, opened the door and stood talking to her.

"The next thing the witnesses know, she floors it, and she's apparently moving at a pretty good clip and he's hanging on the side of the vehicle," Police Department Homicide Sgt. Mark Newcomb told the Houston Chronicle in Thursday's editions.

The car was moving an estimated 50 mph or more as Whitehead was dragged along the freeway shoulder, passing other vehicles that were stuck in rush-hour traffic, witnesses said.

The 24-year-old woman side-swiped another vehicle as her car reached a narrowed portion of the freeway. That propelled Whitehead into the air over his girlfriend's car and he landed in a ditch.

Whitehead's girlfriend sustained minor injuries.

Newcomb said the woman was taking prescription medication, but it was unknown if that played any role in the events.

Stories and photos from wire services

FACES

There's no denying ...



Bon Jovi performs "It's My Life"/"Have a Nice Day" during rehearsals Nov. 12 for the American Music Awards in Los Angeles.

BY CHELSEA J. CARTER

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Love them or hate them, there's no denying Bon Jovi's accomplishments.

The New Jersey rockers roared on the scene two decades ago with power-chord-driven guitars and working-class sensibilities that elevated their pop-metal band, to multiplatinum status.

But as many of their music counterparts fell by the wayside, Bon Jovi managed to retain its status and audience by sticking to straightforward rock music. Along the way, they racked up one multiplatinum album after another, captured a remarkable number of hit singles and managed to stay together when so many other bands of the era fell apart.

This year, the band — headed up by 42-year-old Jon Bon Jovi — marks two milestones: Their 20-year anniversary and the sale of 100 million albums worldwide.

To celebrate, on Nov. 16 the band released "100,000,000 Bon Jovi Fans Can't Be Wrong," a four-CD box set of 50 songs, including 38 never-before-heard songs the band wrote during its career. It also includes a handful of rarities, such as songs from obscure movie soundtracks, and a DVD featuring band interviews.

Why open up the music vaults now?

Jon Bon Jovi: I've never been very good at celebrating the moments as the 20 years have gone by. I was guilty, especially in my younger years, of running through life with blinders on. Many of the magic moments were lost on me because I was always focused on the next day, the next album, the next move. As I've gotten older and started to enjoy it a lot more for what it is, and I knew this milestone of both the 20 years and 100 million marks were quickly coming upon us, I thought 'Why not? Why not take the time to accept the pat on the back and congratulate your band mates and the people who have supported you for 20 years and go into those vaults people have always heard about and were never privy to.



Bon Jovi are, from left, Richie Sambora, Tico Torres, Jon Bon Jovi and David Bryan.

But 50 songs?

You get value for your money with this band, that's for sure. When I thought of this, and I thought of it quite a while ago, I wanted to make sure there was a reason for it. You know, like the 20th anniversary.

Why is there so much unreleased material?

As the record industry changed from the late '80s until now, especially in Asia and Europe, you would have to give people so many B-sides in order to promote singles — to have hit singles and therefore sell your records and therefore sell tickets.

We were doing two and three B-sides for every single we put out.

And because we were diligent every time we would make a record, we would record a lot of songs to get to the final 12. We were never one of those kind of bands that would record 12 songs for the record. We would write 40 and do detailed demos, which is what you hear in the box set.

So is there a tour in the works for this?

No. No. No. We have a new record coming next year that's already done. This is a mile marker, end of story.

Is there a song or two in the box set that you consider a gem?

The ballad one that says "These Arms Are Open All Night." I just think is so cinematic. Any great storyteller from Tom Waits to Billy Joel could perform the hell out of it. There was lyrical content in certain songs that I wish I had been more willing to let go of, and have come out and told what they meant. It was just a little too bruised at the time, and wouldn't put them out because I always wanted to show the sunny side, the optimistic side, the uplifting side.

Go back in time 20 years ago. Is this everything you thought it would be?

I couldn't have lied this well 20 years ago. No one would have believed me, even me. My idea of fame was a tour bus, northeast region of the country, three months, theaters of 3,000 people. ... I never had aspirations of being in KISS or Led Zeppelin. It's funny because growing up in the '70s that was the biggest, that was the coolest, that was it. That wasn't where I was reaching toward. It wasn't for me. I wanted to be Bob Dylan.

How much bigger does the ride get?

I don't think that it's even on my radar. I'm well over that period. That I know I can tell you I'm not chasing anybody's idea of what's big anymore.

How do you keep it going at this stage of the game?

I enjoy it. I enjoy the writing process first, the recording process second and the touring process last. I think it's been that way with me for a lot of years. But creating the song, unlike the movement from Seattle that took all my peers and put them by the wayside, I wanted to be a rock 'n' roll star. I wanted to have people hear my music. If you were 6 or 60 or if you were from America or Africa, I wanted you to have heard of my songs.

I've never changed that. I love when somebody says "Boy, I like that song" or "I was influenced by that song" or "It marks a memory for me" because I had those kind of memories too when I was kid.

Tenor going on tour

Luciano Pavarotti, long a giant in the opera world, has signed a contract for a 40-date worldwide farewell tour.

Pavarotti, whose tenor voice has filled opera halls for more than four decades, will perform in countries throughout North and South America, Europe, Asia, New Zealand and Australia.

Pavarotti, who recently turned 69, has sold more than 100 million albums in his career and has done much to popularize classical music and opera.

Bergen joins 'Legal' cast

Candice Bergen is joining her first prime-time TV series since "Murphy Brown," this time as a cast member of ABC's "Boston Legal."



Bergen will join "Legal" stars James Spader and William Shatner, playing Shirley Schmidt, a founding partner of the show's focal law firm.

In the early '90s, the actress won five Emmys and two Golden Globes for her performance on "Murphy Brown," a sitcom about the television news business.

Bergen is also to appear as a judge in the new installment of the "Law & Order" franchise: "Trial by Jury."

An urban Martha Stewart

Kimora Lee Simmons has a full plate. It's probably a solid gold, diamond-encrusted plate, but it is definitely full.

I think I just sort of keep going," the flashy TV personality and Baby Phat creative director told The Associated Press. "I take a bunch of things on my plate, but I have wonderful people behind me. And I only get into things I know about."

The former model, wife of hip-hop mogul Russell Simmons and mother of two said she's transformed or, more accurately, branded herself into a sort of urban Martha Stewart. But does that mean "Kimora Lee Simmons" is on the way?

"I'm rolling out a home line," Simmons revealed. "I would make paint and bedding. People ask me all the time about my home. ... Where did you get those pillows? I'm more than willing to open myself like that."

Women love Cole's 'Song'

Although it's been played many times, many ways, Nat King Cole's "The Christmas Song" rates as the most popular Christmas song in a new survey.

Following Cole is Burl Ives' "A Holly Jolly Christmas," Celine Dion's "O Holy Night" and the Beach Boys' "Jingle Bell Rock."

Edison Media Research, who surveys radio listeners, recently conducted a study of the favorite holiday tunes of women ages 30-49 from across the country.

Charting at the most hated Christmas song is the rendition of "O Holy Night" by "South Park" character Eric Cartman.

Stories and photos from wire services

YOUR MONEY

Foot- weary can do shopping at online malls

BY LESLIE WALKER
The Washington Post

Face it, shopaholics — the Internet drains much of the fun out of holiday shopping and replaces it with ice-cold efficiency. Who wouldn't rather stroll through Neiman Marcus or Best Buy with their best buddy than sit solo in front of a computer, eyeballing page after page of tiny pictures showing what you could reach out and touch at real prices?

Busy, savvy people, that's who. They realize the Internet magnifies shopping prowess, helps them discover and buy gifts they might never run across if they relied solely on their feet and telephone — and in a small fraction of the time it takes to shop the traditional way.

This seems to be the reason more true e-commerce as Internet retailers figure out what online shoppers really want and add features to help, such as top-10 lists of hot sellers, gift picks by category, product ratings and reviews, and filters that let shoppers sort products by price, ingredients, colors and other factors.

Internet found many Internet shopping time-savers and gift-idea generators to prepare this online holiday shopping guide. I was surprised at how much easier it is to find and order unusual, foreign, cheap or luxury products online than it was three or four years ago.

In no time, I stumbled across a \$15 pair of Cozi moccasin slip-

pers my sister might like as a stocking stuffer at Zappos.com, a vast Web shoe store. Those I found by drilling down to the women's slippers page and clicking on the "popularly bought" button popped the fleece-lined Cozis as the top seller.

Another gift idea I found might appeal to my teen-age nephew — a one-year subscription to GameFly.com, which provides video

*I was surprised
at how much
easier it is to
find and order
unusual, foreign,
cheap or luxury
products online
today than it
was three or four
years ago.*

game rentals the same way Netflix rents movies, by mail. The site lets subscribers keep one game at a time for \$14 a month and two for \$22.

For my stepmother, I eyeballed trendy leather bags at Lush-Bags.com, wondering if she'd like the \$229 multicolor Speedy carry-all co-created by Louis Vuitton and Japanese pop artist Takashi Murakami.

I resisted the bag, though,

along with the temptation to send my embittered Democratic pals "W 2004" square buttons available at a discount (for \$1.75) from the George W. Bush Store (www.georgewbushstore.com).

Equally tempting and equally resistible was the urge to send Republican pals a \$3 "The Right Choice for America" button from the Kerrygear (www.kerrygear.com) site.

Other finds were the \$30 print of the Redskins stadium scoreboard, or the \$80 Redskins jersey, both with any name you submit appearing on them, available from NFL.com.

Even more fun were framed, \$60 caricature prints you can create of loved ones from any photo you upload at Personalcreations.com.

You could get fancier with the same idea at Photowow.com, which will create pop art from any photo starting at \$75.

I had fun with eBay's new "holi-day gift wizard," which locates gifts for sale on the auction super site, ranging from popular gag gifts to memorabilia about someone's hometown, name or hero.

You tell the wizard if you're gift-giving to a male, woman, boy or girl, pick from 10 descriptive categories such as collector, sports fan or gadget guru, then answer one of four questions that pop up, and it will return an illustrated list of items for sale on eBay.

For my father I chose the "impossible to shop for" category, then answered a question about his last name and wound up

Buying Online

The most-popular Web retailers in October.

| Company | Millions of visitors |
|-----------------|----------------------|
| eBay | 60.33 |
| Amazon | 37.49 |
| Wal-Mart | 19.05 |
| Dell | 12.94 |
| Target | 12.86 |
| Overstock.com | 12.29 |
| Hewlett-Packard | 10.16 |
| Apple Computer | 10.14 |
| Best Buy | 8.18 |
| Sears | 7.64 |
| J.C. Penney | 7.47 |

Note: Excludes virtual malls such as Yahoo! Shopping services, such as wireless carrier sites; and electronic greetings and purchasing deals, such as Columbia House.

SOURCE: ComScore Networks Inc.

LATWP

chucking at many of the 7,014 items with "Walker" in their auction titles, including various "Walker, Texas Ranger" items I am still mulling over since he has roots in Texas.

I was intrigued, too, when I searched on behalf of my best friend, another "impossible to shop for" person. I answered the question about her hometown rather than last name, and up came 351 items about Washington, D.C., including a signed photo of Mayor Anthony A. Williams, an antique milk bottle from a D.C. dairy, and antique maps.

The auction site also offers a list of 67 new products being sold only on eBay through Dec. 15 (www.ebay.com/exclusives), such as a limited edition "agua pet" named Kuzu that floats in a small water chamber and is billed as an "interactive" companion.

I still find Internet shopping overwhelming and less fun than window-shopping with friends, but it's hard to ignore the ability to get so much accomplished so quickly — without the hassle of standing in holiday cash register lines.

WEDNESDAY'S MARKET SUMMARY

INDEXES

| 52-week | | | | | | | |
|-----------|-----------|--------------------------|-----------|---------|-------|-------|--------|
| High | Low | Name | Last | Net | % | YTD | 52-wk |
| 10,753.63 | 9,708.40 | Dow Jones Industrials | 10,509.22 | +612.20 | +1.56 | +1.30 | +7.12 |
| 3,665.65 | 2,743.46 | Dow Jones Transportation | 3,736.79 | +78.08 | +1.23 | +2.47 | +27.26 |
| 332.28 | 250.09 | Dow Jones Utilities | 321.62 | -4.17 | -1.28 | +2.50 | +27.55 |
| 1,475.05 | 6,073.30 | NYSE Composite | 1,468.10 | +0.60 | +0.04 | +0.04 | +0.04 |
| 1,415.78 | 1,098.10 | Russell 2000 | 1,413.81 | +1.73 | +5.50 | +4.07 | +26.55 |
| 2,153.83 | 1,750.82 | Nasdaq Composite | 2,139.23 | +24.42 | +1.98 | +3.73 | +9.08 |
| 1,188.46 | 1,053.41 | S&P 500 | 1,181.37 | +17.55 | +1.50 | +1.75 | +11.89 |
| 681.14 | 546.29 | S&P MidCap | 586.68 | +84.81 | +1.32 | +2.12 | +13.83 |
| 64.90 | 15.90 | Russell 2000 | 64.69 | +0.92 | +1.43 | +1.43 | +1.43 |
| 1,084.90 | 10,244.15 | W Microware | 11,725.57 | +167.01 | +1.44 | +5.67 | +12.82 |

Horoscope

The lovely trip down memory lane is sponsored by Mercury retrograde, your one-stop cosmic shop of little horrors. The inner chatter of "Did I really just do that?" and "How could I have said that to him?" will cease once you come to terms with the idea that everybody, even you, is doing the best possible with the knowledge available at the time.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (December 4). Dazzle the world with your genius this year. Draw inspiration from the arts, and make brilliant business moves in January. The spring features a big purchase. Be daring — believe you can have more. Singles are adventurous and enjoy a level of playfulness in their dating life. But, come June, it's about settling in and making plans for the future.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Someone tries to educate and inform you, but you're getting another feeling from the interaction — like you're being indoctrinated! You're probably right. Continue to be an individual advocate for free thought.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You have a great appetite for knowledge, and in the quest for it, you'll loosen your grip on beliefs that have held you back. The same goes for negative people. You'll consciously choose not to return a call.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Because you're aware of your own energy force, you're able to increase it and decrease it as the situation dictates. Listen to all sides of an argument. Doing the "right" thing means something different to everyone involved.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Postpone firm commitments for a few days, since you're in no position to make decisions that will affect your financial realm. (Whether they're about love, family or business, they will influence your financial realm.)

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Handle what's important first and all subsequent tasks are easier than you

thought they'd be. You can combine business and a hobby for some sudden money. Technology is your friend, so use it.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Why think in black-and-white terms when it's so much more fun to see the world in Technicolor? Time shows you the legitimacy of the other person's position, particularly in romantic squabbles.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Confidence is more attractive than any physical characteristic, so stop worrying about looks. Besides, you've turned the corner on managing your health or weight. Good fortune comes with the change.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Success comes from temporarily shifting your focus. Measure yourself against a long-term goal, and refuse to get wrapped up in the hour-by-hour ebbs and flows of business. Better news is, you're ahead.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Hold back on a project if you have any confusion about what to do next or how to do it. The bottom line involves much more than money. Ask a powerful person what he or she would do in your situation.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You may come up against fierce opposition, but have courage, and stand strong. The sand starts running out of the hourglass on a deal — it's critical for you to move quickly with people who know what they're doing.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Your tranquil tone attracts more joyful, carefree and prosperous situations. Take a risk you would not have taken yesterday. You could help someone save face, which will always be remembered.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Answers are found through observation, not research. Tell the one who cries "Wolf!" that you're going to have to stop responding — and then, do all you can to keep this from being an empty threat.

Creators Syndicate

Holiday Mathis

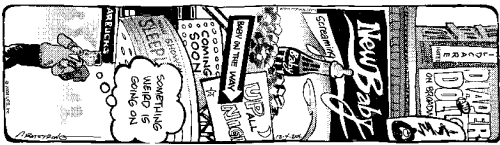


or weight. Good fortune comes with the change.

Calvin and Hobbes



Jump Start



Zits



Cathy



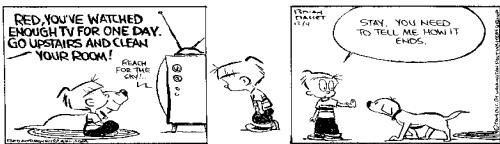
Hi and Lois



Beetle Bailey



Red and Rover



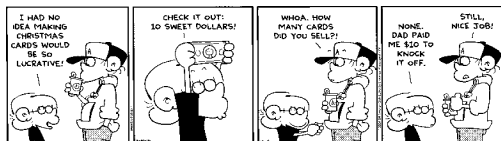
Better or Worse



Peanuts



Fotrot



B.C.



Baby Blues



Spider Man



Blondie



Dilbert



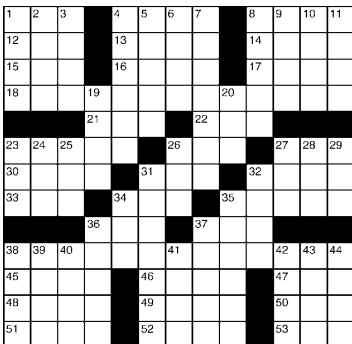
Hagar



Garfield



Eugene Sheffer Crossword



Across

- 1 Filch
- 4 Margarine servings
- 8 At a snail's pace
- 12 Citric beverage
- 13 Moises of baseball
- 14 Urin' "— 18"
- 15 Bro's counterpart
- 16 Biz letterhead abbr.
- 17 Mideast VIP
- 18 Stun
- 21 Find a tenant
- 22 "Guinness Book" suffix
- 23 Swell
- 26 Fort widths
- 27 Resume
- 30 Reddish stee
- 31 Place-kicker's pride
- 32 Assistance
- 33 Request
- 34 Saturn auto model
- 35 Ex-governor
- 36 Blunder
- 37 Witness
- 38 Subject of an "Annie" song
- 45 In eager anticipation
- 46 "An apple — ..."
- 47 Sitcom star Romano
- 48 Hayseed
- 49 Toy-shop offering
- 50 "All the Things You —"
- 51 Disarray

Down

- 1 Small barrel
- 2 Valhalla VIP
- 3 Mexican money
- 4 Mail boat
- 5 Soaring
- 6 Pamplona runner
- 7 Highest-ranking
- 8 Refine
- 9 Prom transport
- 10 Hodge-podge
- 11 Become symptom
- 12 distorted
- 13 Bloodhound's clue
- 14 "Axis of evil" member
- 15 Token, maybe
- 16 Kept under surveillance
- 25 Exam format
- 27 — relief
- 28 Half the ramifications?
- 29 Praise in verse
- 31 Whirlwind
- 32 Command to
- 33 Annoy
- 34 The good doctor
- 35 Squeaks past
- 36 La — Opera House
- 38 Injury
- 39 Malaria
- 40 Plagiarizes
- 41 Bloodhound's clue
- 42 "Axis of evil" member
- 43 Token, maybe
- 44 Kept under surveillance

Answer to Previous Puzzle



12-4

CRYPTOQUIP

LZ D XHYGQXLLOU XWDMUR
 BHWWMIDWW MHQ'BU
 EHPPD PFLOS FUR IU
 ZDOPDJPLG DP JXLSLOE.
 Yesterday's Cryptoquip: I WONDER IF
 PICCOLOS ARE PLAYED DURING HURRICANES.
 AFTER ALL, THEY'RE HIGH WINDS.
 Today's Cryptoquip Clue: X equal P

Mom's promise gives reassurance

Dear Abby: A promise I made to my child is tearing me apart. My 7-year-old son, "Lyle," has been talking a lot about death. A while back, we were in the car and he brought the subject up again. He said how sad he would be in heaven alone, and asked that should anything ever happen to him, if I would go with him. I promised that I would, and it seemed to make him feel much better. We talked about how we would fly down to Earth and touch our loved ones to give them comfort, even though they would never see us.

Dear Abby



That promise I made is killing me now, because, God forbid if something were to happen to Lyle, I could never go with him. I have four other children who need me. I'm afraid if I take back the promise that I gave my son so much comfort, it will upset him. Also, I need to know why, at his tender age, Lyle is talking so much about death. Is this normal? Sometimes

it scares me.
— **Torn Mother in Vermont**
Dear Torn Mother: Do not "take back" the promise. Your son was asking for reassurance that you would never leave him, and you gave it to him. Because you are concerned about this preoccupation with death, gently try to draw him out when he brings it up again. If you are not satisfied with his responses, enlist the aid of a child psychologist.

Dear Abby: I dated "Carter" for five months. During that time, he bought me all kinds of presents, from flowers to tires for my car. I never asked Carter for anything. In fact, I told him twice that there were "too many presents."

He responded that I was insulting him, and told me I should just accept them graciously and say thank you.

I tried to reciprocate by doing

things for him. I would cook him dinner every time he came over, and give him fresh produce from our garden. I even loaned Carter my car when his was in the shop. Now that we are broken up, he is demanding that I return all his gifts and pay him \$300 for the tires or he will sue me. (I have proof they were gifts, and given with love.) I feel Carter is wrong. Should I give him back the things and pay him?

— **Sorry I Ever Met Him in California**

Dear Sorry: Once a gift is given, it belongs to the recipient to do with as she (or he) wishes. However, in this case, since you now know they were intended as strings to bind you to him, it might be better to return them and be rid of him once and for all.

P.S. He can sue you if he wishes, but whether he could WIN is another matter. I hope for his sake he won't decide to try.

Letters for this column — with your name and phone number — should be addressed to **Dear Abby**, P.O. Box 6940, Los Angeles CA 90069. Readers can write to Abby on the Internet at <http://www.uspspress.com/dearabby>. Universal Press Syndicate.

JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

TULDA



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ASTUE



YODMEB



www.jumble.com

KENALT



A: A



(Answers Monday)

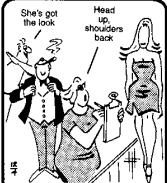
Yesterday's

Jumbles: AFIRE BARGE RACIAL AFFAIR

Answer: How the dining critic described the food at the carnival — FAIR FAIR FAIR

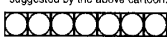
THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

by Henri Arnold and Mike Argrison



WHAT IT TAKES TO LEARN TO FASHION DOWN A FASHION RUNWAY.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.



(Answers Monday)

Be firm: Tell daughter time to go

Dear Annie: My daughter and her three children came to live in our home over a year ago. She told me it would be for only a short time. Now her boyfriend is living here, and they are paying us only \$200 a month, which does not cover utilities and other extras she costs us.

Both my husband and I are on disability.

I am tired of having five extra people in my house with no privacy, and told my daughter months ago to start looking for her own place. How do I get them out?

— **Desperate, Angry Mother**
Dear Mother: Would your daughter be willing to pay more to cover her costs? Would you be willing to let her stay if she did? If not, give her a specific date when she has to be out of the house, and help her look for available rentals.

You may want to see a lawyer to start eviction proceedings. Otherwise, if she makes no effort to move, change the locks on your doors and toss her stuff on the

Annie's Mailbox



lawn.

Dear Annie: When I married my wife and became a stepfather to her children, she said I had equal say in all things and suggested I spend at least twice as much time listening as I did talking. Here are some things I have found to be true:

1. I don't force things. If and when the children choose to like you, they will. Don't be confrontational about inconsequential things. Carefully pick the fights you really need to fight.

2. Listen. Communication is a two-way street. If they believe you won't listen to them, they aren't going to listen to you. When kids need to talk about something, it needs to be now, not after the news or at bedtime.

3. Communicate with your partner. Particularly when faced with teenagers, a unified front is essential.

4. Never bash the ex-spouse,

and if possible, try to have a civil relationship with him/her. Before birthdays and Christmas, my wife's ex calls me for suggestions. If you have a civil relationship, everybody wins.

5. Don't look at yourself as a parental replacement. I am a parental supplement. These girls grew up with three parents who love them. If you try to drive a wedge or replace the other parent, you will lose.

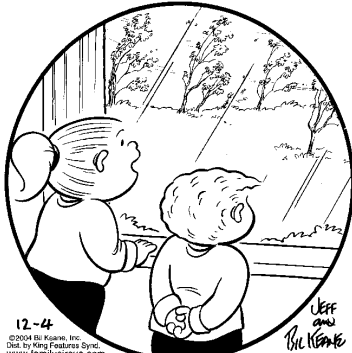
6. Tell them you love them, often.

I'm not claiming to have all the answers, but the girls do love me all the time. I think it's called being a parent.

— **Wisconsin Stepdad**
Dear Stepdad: We like your suggestions — they show a great deal of common sense and a loving attitude. Thanks for sharing them with our readers.

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please e-mail your questions to anniemailbox@comcast.net, or write to: Annie's Mailbox, c/o Creators Syndicate, 5777 W. Century Blvd., Suite 700, Los Angeles CA 90045. Creators Syndicate

Family Circus



12-4

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"Wow! Look how the wind makes the trees dance!"

GRAFFITI

TEMER IS A VALUABLE ASSET TRY NOT TO LOSE IT

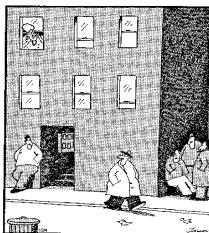
Dennis the Menace



IT'S A GOOD THING BABIES ARE SMALL, OR THEY WOULDN'T FIT INTO THEIR CLOTHES.

© Gary Larson

The Far Side



*I made a mistake... Deposit the \$50 cash into savings, and put the \$500 in cash into checking!

Non Sequitur



The First Cell Phone

SCOREBOARD

AFN-TV & Radio

Saturday
AFN-Atlantic, 1:30 a.m.—College basketball: Memphis at Purdue.
AFN-Sports, 2 a.m.—NFL: Detroit at Atlanta.

AFN-Sports, 4:30 a.m.—Boxing: Rocky Jacobs (21-0) vs. Guty Espadas Jr. (0-0), featherweight.

AFN-Sports, 4:30 a.m.—NBA: Indiana at Sacramento.

AFN-Sports, 9 a.m.—NFL: Films Game of the Week (10:00).
AFN-Sports, 9 a.m.—College basketball: Miami at Purdue (10:00).
AFN-Sports, 1 p.m.—NBA: Detroit at San Antonio.

AFN-Atlantic, 6 p.m.—College basketball: Kentucky at California.
AFN-Atlantic, 6 p.m.—College basketball: Indiana at California.

AFN-Sports, 7 p.m.—College football: Atlanta at Virginia Tech.
AFN-Atlantic, 7 p.m.—College football: Virginia Tech at Miami.

AFN-Sports, 8:30 p.m.—College football: Army vs. Navy.
AFN-Sports, 10:30 p.m.—College football: Southern Cal at UCLA.
AFN-Sports, 11 p.m.—College football: Southeastern Conference championship game, Tennessee vs. Auburn.

Sunday
AFN-Atlantic, 2 a.m.—College football: Big XI championship game, Colorado vs. Oklahoma.
AFN-Atlantic, 2 a.m.—College basketball: Illinois at Arkansas.
AFN-Sports, 1 p.m.—College football: Division I-AA quarterfinals, New Hampshire at Tennessee.

AFN-Atlantic, 7 p.m.—NFL: Atlanta at Tampa Bay.
AFN-Sports, 7 p.m.—NFL: Atlanta at N.Y. Jets.
AFN-Pacific, 7 p.m.—NFL: Cincinnati at Baltimore.

AFN-Atlantic, 10 p.m.—NFL: Green Bay at Philadelphia.
AFN-Atlantic, 10 p.m.—NFL: Kansas City at Oakland.
AFN-Pacific, 10 p.m.—NFL: Denver at San Diego.

All times Central European time; dit indicates delayed broadcast. All listings are subject to change. Some radio broadcasts not available in all areas. Visit www.afn.net for more information.

Pro football

NFL

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

East

West

South

North

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College football

Monday, Dec. 13
 Kansas City at Tennessee

Thursday's score

MIDWEST
 Miami (Ohio) 27

Bowl glance

Tuesday, Dec. 14
 Payoff: \$750,000
 North Texas 27 vs. Southern Mississippi (6-4)

Wednesday, Dec. 15
 Payoff: \$750,000
 Georgia Tech (5-5) vs. Big 12

Thursday, Dec. 16
 Payoff: \$750,000
 Cincinnati (6-5) vs. Marshall (6-5)

Friday, Dec. 17
 Payoff: \$750,000
 Wyoming (6-5) vs. Pac-10 No. 4/5

Saturday, Dec. 18
 Payoff: \$750,000
 UAB (7-4) vs. WAC

Sunday, Dec. 19
 Payoff: \$750,000
 At Troy, Ala.

Monday, Dec. 20
 Payoff: \$750,000
 At Boise, Idaho

Tuesday, Dec. 21
 Payoff: \$750,000
 Fresno State (9-3) vs. Big 12

Wednesday, Dec. 22
 Payoff: \$750,000
 At San Antonio

Thursday, Dec. 23
 Payoff: \$750,000
 Ohio State (7-4) vs. Big 12

Friday, Dec. 24
 Payoff: \$750,000
 At San Diego

Saturday, Dec. 25
 Payoff: \$750,000
 At San Jose, Calif.

Sunday, Dec. 26
 Payoff: \$750,000
 WAC vs. MAC

Monday, Dec. 27
 Payoff: \$750,000
 At Nashville, Tenn.

Tuesday, Dec. 28
 Payoff: \$750,000
 SEC vs. Minnesota (6-5)

Wednesday, Dec. 29
 Payoff: \$750,000
 At El Paso, Texas

Thursday, Dec. 30
 Payoff: \$750,000
 Purdue (4-7) vs. Pac-10 No. 3

Friday, Dec. 31
 Payoff: \$750,000
 At Memphis, Tenn.

Saturday, Dec. 1
 Payoff: \$750,000
 Boise State (11-0) vs. Louisville (9-1)

Sunday, Dec. 2
 Payoff: \$750,000
 ACC No. 3 vs. Florida (7-4)

Monday, Dec. 3
 Payoff: \$750,000
 SEC vs. Big 12

Tuesday, Dec. 4
 Payoff: \$750,000
 Cotton Bowl

Wednesday, Dec. 5
 Payoff: \$750,000
 Wisconsin (9-2) vs. Georgia (9-2)

Thursday, Dec. 6
 Payoff: \$750,000
 At Jacksonville, Fla.

Friday, Dec. 7
 Payoff: \$750,000
 Florida State (9-3) vs. West Virginia (8-3)

Capital One Bowl
 Payoff: \$3.5 million
 Iowa (9-2) vs. SEC

Rockwell Bowl
 Payoff: \$1.5 million
 Michigan (9-2) vs. Pac-10 champion or TEA

At Tempo, Ariz.
 Payoff: \$1.5 million
 BCS vs. BCS

Super Jan. 3
 Payoff: \$1.5 million
 BCS vs. BCS

Tuesday, Jan. 4
 Payoff: \$1.5 million
 At Miami

Wednesday, Jan. 5
 Payoff: \$1.5 million
 BCS vs. BCS

Thursday, Jan. 6
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 At Miami

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Sunday, Feb. 27
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 At Miami

Monday, Feb. 28
 Payoff: \$1.5 million
 At Miami

Tuesday, Feb. 29
 Payoff: \$1.5 million
 At Miami

Wednesday, Mar. 1
 Payoff: \$1.5 million
 At Miami

Georgia Tech (4-0) did not play. Next vs. Georgia, Sunday.

Kentucky (4-0) did not play. Next at Arkansas, Saturday.

North Carolina State (4-0) did not play. Next vs. Washington State, Saturday.

Michigan (9-2) vs. Pac-10 champion or TEA, Saturday.

Indiana, Saturday.

North Carolina, Saturday.

Valparaiso, Saturday.

Michigan State (3-3) did not play. Next vs. George Washington, Saturday.

Georgia, Saturday.

Pittsburgh (4-0) did not play. Next vs. Georgia, Saturday.

Duquesne, Saturday.

Mississippi State (1-1) did not play. Next vs. Eastern Washington, Saturday.

South Alabama (6-6) vs. No. 21 Arizona, Sunday.

North Carolina State (5-0) did not play. Next vs. Memphis, Sunday.

Louisville (3-1) did not play. Next vs. Lafayette, Saturday.

Texas (4-1) did not play. Next at Seton Hall, Saturday.

Florida (4-0) did not play. Next at Michigan, Saturday.

Mississippi State (1-1) did not play. Next vs. Alabama, Saturday.

Virginia (4-1) did not play. Next vs. Central Michigan, Saturday.

Virginia (4-1) did not play. Next vs. Auburn, Saturday.

Wisconsin (3-1) did not play. Next at Rutgers, Saturday.

Seminals

Friday, Dec. 10 or Saturday, Dec. 11
 Seminole State-Eastern Washington vs. Montana-New Hampshire winner

Championship

Friday, Dec. 11
 At Fidelity Stadium/Davenport Field

Seminol winners

Division II playoffs

Seminals

West Chester (11-3) at Valdosta State

North Dakota (11-2) at Pittsburg State (13-0)

Saturday, Dec. 11
 At Brady Memorial Stadium

Florida, Ala.

North Dakota
 North Dakota, winner vs. West Chester-Valdosta State winner

Division III playoffs

Quarterfinals

Saturday, Dec. 11
 Delaware Valley (12-0) at Rowan (9-2)

Jefferson (12-1) at Mount Union (11-0)

Occidental (10-1) at Linfield (10-0)

Seminals

Saturday, Dec. 11
 Occidental-Linfield winner vs. Delaware Valley-Rowan-Washington & Jefferson winner vs. Carthage-Mount Union winner

Championship

Saturday, Dec. 11
 At Salem Stadium

Salem, Va.

Seminol winners

NIAA playoffs

Saturday, Dec. 4
 Georgetown, N.Y. (1-0) vs. Francis, Ind. (1-2)

Liberty B.

Championship

Saturday, Dec. 4
 At Jim Carroll Stadium

Georgetown, N.Y. St. Francis, Ind. winner vs. Azusa Pacific-California, Mont. winner

College basketball

Men's AP Top 25

Friday, Dec. 3
 1. Wake Forest (2-1) did not play. Next vs. Richmond, Saturday.

2. Kansas (9-0) did not play. Next vs. Pacific, Saturday.

3. Syracuse (6-0) did not play. Next vs. Colgate, Saturday.

4. Georgia Tech (4-0) did not play. Next vs. Georgia, Sunday.

5. Kentucky (4-0) did not play. Next at Arkansas, Saturday.

6. North Carolina State (4-0) did not play. Next vs. Washington State, Saturday.

7. Michigan (9-2) vs. Pac



Spain's Rafael Nadal, right, celebrates a four-set victory over American Andy Roddick in a Davis Cup final match Friday. Spain, the 2000 Davis Cup champion, won both matches to take a 2-0 lead in the final series.

Chains in Spain

Deluge of winning shots buries U.S. in a 2-0 hole

By STEPHEN WADE

The Associated Press

SEVILLE, Spain — Andy Roddick and Mardy Fish lost opening matches in the Davis Cup final on Friday, leaving the United States in a big hole and Spain in commanding position to win the title a second time.

Rafael Nadal defeated the second-ranked Roddick 6-7 (8-6), 6-2, 7-6 (8-6), 6-2 after Carlos Moya opened with a 6-4, 6-2, 6-3 victory over Fish, an inexperienced day-court player.

Spain, which won the title at home in 2000 over Australia, now needs one more victory in the best-of-five series. The Americans have won the Davis Cup a record 31 times, but have not captured the premier team event in men's tennis since 1995.

Only one team in Davis Cup history has come back from 2-0 down and won the final — Australia in 1939 in a victory over the United States.

In Saturday's doubles, American twins Bob and Mike Bryan face Nadal and Tommy Robredo. The Bryans are 4-0 in Davis Cup play and have not lost a set. If they win, Sunday's singles would pit Moya against Roddick and Fish against Nadal.

The 18-year-old Nadal was sensational on the slow, red clay on a chilly day at Olympic Stadium. He combined power on his sweeping left-handed groundstrokes with touch on repeated drop shots, prompting Roddick to applaud with his racket.

"I had cramps at one point but I got through it," Nadal said.

"I tried everything. I tried serving and volleying, I'd tried coming in on a lot of balls, I tried to stay back, and he had answers. ... You have to tip your hat to him."

Mardy Fish

U.S. Davis Cup player

Asked if he were ready to play Sunday, he replied: "Right now, I'm not. I'm really beat. But I think I'll be ready."

Attendance was given unofficially at 27,200, which would be a record for a sanctioned tennis match. The old mark was set in 1954 in Sydney, when 25,578 watched the United States defeat Australia in the Davis Cup final.

Despite dropping the first set in 71 minutes, Nadal came right back and swept through the second in 34 minutes, twice breaking Roddick's service.

In the 85-minute third set, Nadal failed to capitalize on any of eight break points and was again forced into a tiebreak. This time he won it, taking the set point on a backhand crosscourt passing shot.

Nadal sprinted through the final set against the dispirited Roddick. Nadal dropped to his back after the winning point, and then rushed to the net to shake hands with Roddick.

It was only the second meeting between the two. Three months ago in the second round of the U.S. Open, Roddick won 6-0, 6-3, 6-4.

In the first match, Moya fell behind 3-0 in the first set but came back and twice broke Fish's serve to take the set in 40 minutes. Moya broke serve again to open the second set, establishing the tone as he swept through the match in straight sets in 1 hour, 57 minutes.

At first the ball from Fish was bouncing higher than I expected, because of his power and topspin," Moya said. "But once I got used to it I was able to handle his game."

The crowd was a blanket of red and yellow, with a brass and drum section heating up the match. Fans were wrapped in overcoats and some sat under umbrellas. The court is under cover, but fringe areas are exposed to open air.

"I started great and I would like to have played like that the entire match," said Fish, who had played only one match on clay before Friday.

"I tried everything. I tried serving and volleying. I tried coming in on a lot of balls, I tried to stay back, and he had answers," he said. "I had some chances and he served a few of those chances away. You have to tip your hat to him."

Only Orioles vote against Expos move to Washington

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Baseball owners gave their conditional approval Friday to moving the Montreal Expos to Washington next year, hinging their decision to an agreement signed in September that did not contain a cap on the cost of a new ballpark.

Owners approved the move during a telephone conference call. The vote was 29-1, with the Baltimore Orioles dissenting, a baseball official said on condition of anonymity.

Approval was "subject to all conditions set forth in the Baseball Stadium Agreement" signed on Sept. 29 by the Expos and Washington Mayor Anthony A. Williams. That agreement called for the District of Columbia government to enact by Dec. 31 funding for a new ballpark for the team, which would be renamed the Nationals.

The D.C. Council voted earlier this week to approve funding, but placed a \$630 million cap on the project — \$195 million above the estimate contained in the September agreement. For the funding to become law, the Council must approve the measure again, and it must be signed by Williams, who favors the project.

Sports briefs

"This is another important step," baseball commissioner Bud Selig said. "We are looking forward to finishing the last steps, including the sale of the ballpark, and the rebirth of the club as the Washington Nationals."

Orioles owner Peter Angelos has opposed the move, saying a team in Washington would cut the revenue of his franchise. Baseball's chief operating officer, Bob DuPuy, has been negotiating a deal with the Orioles that would protect Angelos' franchise, but no agreement has been reached, and Maryland Gov. Robert Ehrlich said this week the matter could wind up in court.

The move would be the first of a Major League Baseball team since the expansion Washington Senators became the Texas Rangers after the 1971 season.

Washington's team would start play April 4 at Philadelphia and play its home opener April 14 against Arizona at RFK Stadium.

RFK Stadium would be used by the team for at least three seasons before the opening of the new ballpark, which would be built south

of the Capitol, along the Anacostia River.

The Expos were bought by the other 29 teams before the 2002 season, and the commissioner's office is in the early stages of the sale process.

Head butt ends title bout

TENGGARONG, Indonesia — Indonesia's Yohannes Christian John kept his WBA featherweight title Friday when his bout with Venezuela's Jose "Cheo" Rojas was stopped in the fourth round following a head-to-head collision in which both fighters bled from their right temples.

The scheduled 12-round fight, John's second title defense, was scored a technical draw.

Appley leads by one

SUN CITY, South Africa — Stuart Appley of Australia was the only player to break 70 Friday, shooting a 3-under-par 69 that left him with a one-stroke lead over Lee Westwood of England halfway through the Nedbank Golf Challenge.

Appley was at 5-under 139 after two rounds. Westwood had a double bogey on the 17th, a water hole, and finished with his second straight 70 for a 140 total.

"Double bogeys are always a disappointment," Westwood said. "I made a couple of slip-ups today and was just unlucky on the 17th."

With the temperature reaching 97 degrees, the Gary Player Country Club course proved difficult, with British Open champion Todd Hamilton and former U.S. Open winner Jim Furyk among those unable to break par.

Westwood and Appley had shared the first-round lead with South Africans Ernie Els and Retief Goosen. Goosen, the U.S. Open champion, shot a 71 and was tied at 141 with Zimbabwe's Nick Price, who had a 70. Els was at 144 after a 74 that was marked by a triple-bogey 7 on the 11th hole. Defending champion Sergio Garcia of Spain shot a 76 and was at 151.

NASCAR likes playoff

NEW YORK — Calling 2004 a year "of remarkable change and success," NASCAR chairman Brian France said he doesn't foresee a whole lot more change for 2005.

France, finishing his first full season as the man in charge of NASCAR after taking the reins from his father, Bill France Jr., was the architect of the new

Chase for the Nextel Cup points system that put its unique stamp on this season.

Shelving the points system in place since 1975 after years of most runaway champions and waning late-season interest by fans, NASCAR split its season into two parts in 2004. The first 26 races determined 10 drivers who would race for the title over the last 10 races in a playoff-style championship format.

It replaced one particular newspaper headline that said, "NASCAR's broken," but said, "NASCAR fixed it." That kind of said it all," the younger France noted. "The would only be a vendetta, particularly the last few races."

There was some criticism that the new points system did not reward victories enough, with runner-up Jimmie Johnson finishing eight points behind champion Kurt Busch despite winning four of the 10 Chase events and earning series-high eight races during the season.

Busch won three times, including twice in the Chase. "The entire team at NASCAR will review the type of things they think can make it better," France said. "There was anything, it would only be an adjustment, a small adjustment. I pretty much liked the way things turned out."

Air Force shakes off slow start vs. N. Colo.

The Associated Press

AIR FORCE ACADEMY, Colo. — Matt McCraw scored 17 points and Air Force overcame a slow start to defeat Northern Colorado 63-54 on Thursday night.

Air Force (5-2) fell behind 7-0 after missing its first eight shots and hit just 37 percent from the field in the first half.

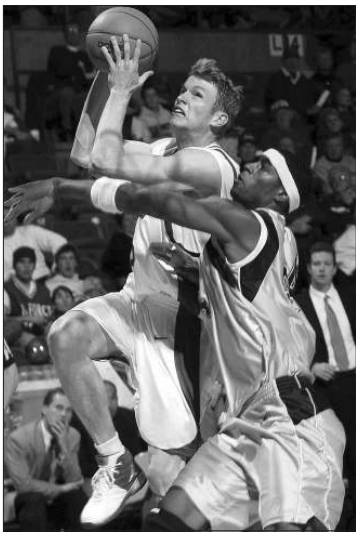
Nick Welch hit a three-pointer to give the Falcons their first lead at 13-12 and Air Force led 29-24 at halftime.

Welch finished with 15 and Antoine Hood had 10.

Sean Nolen and Erik Olson each had 12 points for Northern Colorado (1-7), which is playing its second season in Division I-A.

Nolen's 10-foot jumper late in the first half briefly tied the game 24-24.

Air Force improved to 55 percent from the field in the second half and built a 56-46 lead with 3:37 left. Northern Colorado, which shot 51 percent for the game, managed to cut the deficit to six in the late going.



Air Force's Nick Welch drives past Northern Colorado's James Randle for a basket during the Falcons' 63-54 victory.

Carnesecca's name goes up on St. John's arena

BY JIM O'CONNELL

The Associated Press

One of the smallest clubs in college basketball is one made up of former coaches with buildings named after them.

Dean Smith is arguably the most famous; Lou Carnesecca is the newest.

Carnesecca, who was honored Nov. 23 when St. John's Alumni Hall was renamed Carnesecca Arena, finally caught up with one of his former assistants.

Jim Kresse, who sat next to Carnesecca for 14 seasons — 11 at St. John's and three with the New York Nets of the American Basketball Association — received that honor from the College of Charleston almost 10 years ago.

"It's amazing, a tremendous honor while we're both alive and knowing to enjoy this wonderful accolade," Kresse said Wednesday.

Kresse, now an assistant athletic director at the College of Charleston, led the Cougars to a 560-143 record in 23 seasons, retiring in 2002 after one NAIA national championship, four NCAA tournament appearances and two in the NIT.

"Coach Carnesecca got me involved in coaching," said Kresse, a 1964 graduate of St. John's who played there when Carnesecca was an assistant. "I got to see my first teaching and coaching job at Christ The King High School and when he became head coach at

From Dean to Harry: Welcome to the top

Belleville (Ill.) News-Democrat

LEBANON, Ill. — Former North Carolina coach Dean Smith got on the phone Thursday morning to congratulate McKendree coach Harry Statham for his 880th basketball victory, most ever by a coach at a four-year college.

Smith, who holds the NCAA victory record of 879, "was very gracious, very warm, very happy" over being passed by Statham, whose coaching career has been spent in the NAIA. "He was very

complimentary. We talked about the players. We shared the concept of how important players are in this thing."

McKendree got No. 880 when McKendree beat Maryville 83-72 Wednesday night.

"Just talking basketball with him was a great thrill. I watched his teams play and always loved his style."

Statham has heard Smith speak at large basketball clinics, but he said having him on the other end of the telephone was much more special.

St. John's, he asked me to be his assistant. I owe my career and the opportunity to coach to Coach (Joe) Lapchick and Lou Carnesecca."

In 24 seasons at St. John's, Carnesecca compiled a 526-200 record and his teams made the postseason every year, 18 times in the NCAA tournament. He was elected to the Basketball Hall of Fame in January 1992 and retired three months later.

Two years later, the 3,500-seat arena at Charleston was renamed for Kresse. Ten years later, Carnesecca joined the club when 6,000-seat Alumni Hall was renamed.

"I'm just a little guy. I'm lucky to be part of this," said Carnesecca, who turns 80 on Jan. 4. "This building belongs to the alumni, the players, the scorekeepers, and I'm thrilled to be a part of it as long as they don't try to bury me in it."

Kresse summed up both men's feelings.

"It made you feel appreciated

that a school would go to that length to say thank you," he said.

"It means more than money or publicity. It's a neat feeling that you know you did a good job and were appreciated."

Honoring Jimmy V: The 10th annual Jimmy V Classic will be held Tuesday at Madison Square Garden with No. 3 Syracuse against No. 6 Oklahoma State and Memphis facing No. 13 Pittsburgh.

Mayor Michael Bloomberg has declared Dec. 7 Jimmy V. Day in New York City.

"It's hard for a Valvano to be speechless, but this is something moving for our family that Jimmy is remembered 11 years later," said Nick Valvano, the CEO of the V Foundation, which has raised more than \$40 million for cancer research. "It will be a tough day having something like this for Jimmy and he's not here to be part of it."

Jim Valvano, who led North Carolina State to the 1983 national championship, died in May

Mississippi St. wakes up to beat S. Alabama

The Associated Press

STARKEVILLE, Miss. — Mississippi State coach Rick Stansbury wondered if the Bulldogs were already looking ahead to their next game.

Then, Lawrence Roberts took over.

Roberts scored 14 of his 19 points in the second half to lead No. 15 Mississippi State to a 66-52 victory over South Alabama on Thursday night. Roberts, a pre-season All-American and last season's Southeastern Conference player of the year, also had 13 rebounds.

"They just decided for the whole game — particularly the first half — that if he (Roberts) touches the ball, someone else is going to have to score," Stansbury said. "We're going to see a lot of that all year long."

Shane Power added 16 points and Winsome Frazier had 12 for the Bulldogs (6-1), who took control by opening the second half with a 16-4 run. Mississippi State shook off an eight-day layoff and won its third straight since losing to Syracuse two weeks ago.

Mario Jontier led South Alabama (2-3) with 15 points.

Before the game, some Mississippi State players approached their coach and asked about Sun-

day's game against No. 21 Arizona in the Wooden Classic in Anaheim, Calif.

"I told them we have South Alabama to contend with first," Stansbury said.

Some Mississippi State players shrugged off the suggestion that at least once in a while, they looked past the Jaguars.

"I don't think we did," Frazier said. "But if we did, we shouldn't have."

South Alabama, which trailed by 16 with 6:23 remaining, got no closer than nine rest of the way and had just two points in the final 3:58.

The Jaguars — who entered making nearly half of their field-goal attempts — were held to 34 percent (20-for-59) shooting for the game, and just 27 percent in the second half.

"We've got to grow up," South Alabama coach John Pelphrey said. "At times, we looked really impressive. Other times, we looked like we didn't know each other at all."

Mississippi State improved to 9-0 against South Alabama, and 39-3 in non-conference home games under Stansbury.

Mississippi State transfer Stephen Cowherd's basket gave South Alabama its final lead at 29-28 with 1:07 in the half.

Great Alaska Shootout. Both have to step up in competition for the eight-team events and their success has been wildly different.

Chaminade led to Texas, Louisville to Brigham Young this year in Maui, dropping the Silver-swords' record in the event to 4-57.

The last two victories were over Stanford in the seventh-place game in 1992 and over Villanova in the first round in 2003.

The Seawolves lost to Alabama and Furman this year before beating High Point 66-65 in the seventh-place game in Anchorage.

That was Alaska-Anchorage's 26th victory over a Division I team in the 27 shootouts and it marked the 19th time in the last 20 years the Seawolves beat at least one Division I team.

Greatest number: As each college basketball season gets under way, one player deserves to be recognized for the most impressive statistics the sport has ever known.

Pete Maravich averaged 44.2 points per game for LSU from 1968-70. The next closest average is 34.6 by Austin Carr of Notre Dame from 1969-71.

Last season, 16 players scored 40 or more points in a game with four — Derrick Tarver of Akron, Kevin Martin of Western Carolina, Taylor Coppenrath of Vermont and Odell Brien of IUPUI — doing it twice. The league's career last season was Keydren Clark of Saint Peter's with a 26.7 average.

And just to make Maravich's numbers a little more impressive, he didn't have a three-point line.

College hoops notes

and three with the New York Nets of the American Basketball Association — received that honor from the College of Charleston almost 10 years ago.

"It's amazing, a tremendous honor while we're both alive and knowing to enjoy this wonderful accolade," Kresse said Wednesday.

Kresse, now an assistant athletic director at the College of Charleston, led the Cougars to a 560-143 record in 23 seasons, retiring in 2002 after one NAIA national championship, four NCAA tournament appearances and two in the NIT.

"Coach Carnesecca got me involved in coaching," said Kresse, a 1964 graduate of St. John's who played there when Carnesecca was an assistant. "I got to see my first teaching and coaching job at Christ The King High School and when he became head coach at

Injured Gradkowski leads Toledo to MAC title

BY LARRY LAGE

The Associated Press

DETROIT — A broken hand and separated shoulder were not enough to stop Ben Gradkowski from lifting Toledo to the Mid-American Conference championship.

Gradkowski threw three of his four touchdown passes to Lance Moore, leading the Rockets to a 35-27 win over Miami (Ohio) in the MAC title game Thursday night.

When Gradkowski hurt his shoulder on

the first drive, he missed only one play. He injured his throwing hand late in the second quarter, and X-rays taken at halftime showed his hand was broken.

But he returned to toss three scoring passes in the second half.

"There was no way I wasn't coming back," said Gradkowski, who was 18-for-24 for 251 yards with four touchdown passes and one interception. "Nothing was going to keep me out of this game."

Moore had five receptions for 118 yards

and caught three touchdown passes in the third time in his career.

The Rockets responded when they found out the extent of Gradkowski's injuries.

"Everyone was like, 'Wow,'" Moore said. "It just made everyone want to play even harder because we're healthy and he's out there with a broken hand and a bad shoulder."

The banged-up Gradkowski joined some impressive company.

For the fourth year in a row, a quarter-

back threw four touchdown passes in the MAC title game. Ben Roethlisberger did it last year for the RedHawks, and Byron Leftwich did it for Marshall the two previous years.

"If he did that with a broken hand, that's a really gutsy performance," Miami coach Terry Hoepner said.

Toledo (9-3) will return to Ford Field to face Connecticut on Dec. 27 in the Motor City Bowl. The RedHawks (8-4) will play in the Silicon Valley Classic or the Independence Bowl.

Final test for the top trio

BY RALPH D. RUSSO

The Associated Press

Going into the final week of the regular season, only one team is set for a specific spot in the Bowl Championship Series.

Michigan will play in the Rose Bowl. Everything else will be put in place Saturday in six games involving eight ranked teams.

First up will be Pittsburgh trying to wrap up the Big East's automatic bid to the BCS against South Florida in a game rescheduled because of a hurricane.

About two hours later the former beasts of the Big East, Miami and Virginia Tech, play for the Atlantic Coast Conference crown and its BCS bid.

Then the national championship contenders begin their final push toward the Orange Bowl to play for the BCS title.

Southern California (11-0) plays cross-town rival UCLA. The Trojans are in first place in the BCS standings and have locked up a BCS berth as Pac-10 champion. A victory gives them a trip to Miami and a chance to make it back-to-back national titles. A slip sends them to the Rose Bowl.

College football picks

"There is a lot at stake here when we'll end the elements that add up

are good for us," USC coach Pete Carroll said. "It would be a great game even if there were no wins or either side. But the fact that we have to deal with all this pressure is good for us."

Just about when the Trojans and Bruins are heading to halftime, Auburn and Tennessee kick off the Southeastern Conference title game in Atlanta.

The Tigers (11-0) are third in the BCS standings and probably need a loss by USC or Oklahoma to play in the Orange Bowl.

They beat the Volunteers 34-10 in Knoxville in October.

"We played them early in the season, but you can throw that out and they will have a grudge on their shoulder and they can come out with more enthusiasm," Auburn running back Ronnie Brown said.

About an hour and a half after the Tigers-Volunteers start their rematch in Atlanta, California, fourth in the BCS standings, tries

to secure its spot in the BCS at Southern Mississippi.

The odd cross-sectional regular-season finale also was caused by a September hurricane. Texas will be watching closely, hoping the Golden Eagles can spring the upset — or at least make the Bears look bad — and put the Longhorns in the BCS.

Shortly after that, Oklahoma and Colorado get going in the Big 12 title game in Kansas City. The Sooners appear to control their destiny — win and they're off to Miami to play for a national title for the second straight season.

"We won't sit around and watch other games on television Saturday, we will keep focused on the Colorado game," Oklahoma coach Bob Stoops said.

The Big 12 title game has a history of upsets, including Kansas State knocking off the Sooners to spark last season's BCS controversy.

"There is more of a sense of alertness for this week," Stoops said.

Oddly, now an upset is needed to avoid having three unbeaten teams from the major conferences and another BCS controversy.

The picks:

Auburn (plus 13) vs. Navy: Mids have won two straight by combined 92-18. — **ARMY 30-29.**

No. 1 Southern California (minus 22) at UCLA: USC has won five straight against Bruins, past three by average of 27. — **USC 48-21.**

No. 2 Oklahoma (minus 21½) vs. Colorado: No Sooner slip up the year. — **OKLAHOMA 40-17.**

No. 3 Auburn (minus 13) vs. No. 15 Tennessee: Much like first meeting. — **AUBURN 30-13.**

No. 4 California (minus 23) at Southern Miss: Roses are red but the Rose Bowl will be mostly blue this year. — **CAL 48-20.**

No. 7 Louisville (minus 28) at Tulane: Cards go for fifth straight game with at least 55 points. — **LOUISVILLE 59-24.**

No. 10 Virginia Tech (plus 7) at No. 9 Miami: Hokies' Frank Beamer could be national coach of the year. — **VIRGINIA TECH 24-21.**

No. 19 Pittsburgh (minus 7) at South Florida: Pitt saves Big East possible embarrassment of sending Syracuse to BCS. — **PITTSBURGH 24-14.**

Last week: 8-5 (straight); 3-10 (vs. points).

Season: 189-50 (straight); 121-105-5 (vs. points).

College football schedule/statistics

Weekend schedule

Saturday, Dec. 4
EAST
 Army vs. Navy at Philadelphia
 Virginia Tech at Miami
 Air Force at South Carolina
 Louisville at Tulane
 Fla. International at Florida Atlantic
 SEC championship, Auburn vs. Tennessee at Atlanta

Pittsburgh at South Florida
 California at Southern Miss.
MIDWEST
 Big 12 championship, Oklahoma vs. Colorado at Kansas City, Mo.
FAIR WEST
 Southern Cal at UCLA
 Michigan St. at Hawaii

Div. I-A playoffs
 Sam Houston State at Eastern Washington
 Delaware at William & Mary
 James Madison at Furman
 New Hampshire at Wake Forest

Div. II playoffs
Seminole
 West Chester (11-3) at Boston St. (11-3)
 North Dakota (11-2) at Pittsburg St. (11-2)

Quarterfinals
 Delaware Valley (12-0) at Howard (9-3)
 Mary Hardin-Baylor (11-1) at Washington
 North Dakota St. (12-0) at North Dakota
 Carthage (11-1) at Mount Union (11-0)
 Occidental (11-0) at Linfield (10-0)

NCAA playoffs
Seminole
 Georgetown, Ky. (12-0) at St. Francis, Ind.
 Azusa Pacific (11-2) at Carroll, Mont. (9-2)

Division I-A team statistics

Total offense

| Team | Cards | Yds |
|------------|-------|-----|
| Louisville | 73 | 505 |
| Boise St. | 68 | 502 |
| Boise St. | 68 | 502 |
| Boise St. | 68 | 502 |
| Boise St. | 68 | 502 |
| Boise St. | 68 | 502 |
| Boise St. | 68 | 502 |
| Boise St. | 68 | 502 |
| Boise St. | 68 | 502 |
| Boise St. | 68 | 502 |

Rushing offense

| Team | Cards | Yds |
|-----------|-------|------|
| Rice | 629 | 3115 |
| Boise St. | 569 | 3100 |
| Navy | 577 | 2900 |
| Boise St. | 568 | 2774 |
| Boise St. | 568 | 2774 |
| Boise St. | 568 | 2774 |
| Boise St. | 568 | 2774 |
| Boise St. | 568 | 2774 |
| Boise St. | 568 | 2774 |
| Boise St. | 568 | 2774 |

Passing offense

| Team | Cards | Yds |
|-------------|-------|-----|
| Texas Tech | 591 | 387 |
| Boise St. | 428 | 356 |
| Hawaii | 450 | 351 |
| Arizona St. | 454 | 348 |
| Boise St. | 454 | 348 |
| Boise St. | 454 | 348 |
| Boise St. | 454 | 348 |
| Boise St. | 454 | 348 |
| Boise St. | 454 | 348 |
| Boise St. | 454 | 348 |

Total defense

| Team | Plays | Yds |
|--------------------|-------|------|
| North Carolina St. | 701 | 2435 |
| LSU | 682 | 2435 |
| Boise St. | 679 | 2435 |
| Boise St. | 679 | 2435 |
| Boise St. | 679 | 2435 |
| Boise St. | 679 | 2435 |
| Boise St. | 679 | 2435 |
| Boise St. | 679 | 2435 |
| Boise St. | 679 | 2435 |
| Boise St. | 679 | 2435 |

Wisconsin

| Team | Cards | Yds |
|--------------|-------|------|
| Wisconsin | 678 | 3035 |
| Iowa | 745 | 3180 |
| Penn St. | 753 | 3207 |
| California | 652 | 2927 |
| Georgia Tech | 685 | 3237 |
| Georgia Tech | 729 | 3294 |
| Georgia Tech | 739 | 3303 |
| Missouri | 705 | 3313 |

Rushing defense

| Team | Cards | Yds |
|---------------------|-------|------|
| Florida St. | 171 | 827 |
| Southern California | 329 | 887 |
| Penn St. | 373 | 959 |
| California | 323 | 890 |
| Iowa | 400 | 998 |
| New Mexico | 405 | 1026 |
| Boise St. | 388 | 944 |
| Ohio | 358 | 1041 |
| Purdue | 365 | 1106 |
| North Carolina | 372 | 1012 |
| North Carolina | 429 | 1126 |
| LSU | 381 | 1104 |

Passing defense

| Team | Cards | Yds |
|---------------------|-------|------|
| North Carolina St. | 229 | 1028 |
| Alabama | 387 | 1030 |
| Southern California | 331 | 1037 |
| Fresno St. | 341 | 1038 |
| Virginia Tech | 385 | 1038 |
| Washington | 386 | 1038 |
| Wisconsin | 328 | 1147 |
| Penn St. | 310 | 1175 |
| Boise St. | 265 | 1179 |
| UTEP | 379 | 1152 |
| Tennessee | 338 | 1136 |
| Texas Tech | 339 | 1170 |
| Missouri | 277 | 1442 |

Div. I-A individual statistics

Rushing

| Team | Cards | Yds |
|---------------------|-------|------|
| Thomas, Mo. Texas | 295 | 1209 |
| Williams, Memphis | 295 | 1209 |
| Wenson, Texas | 233 | 1084 |
| Arrington, Cal. | 233 | 1084 |
| Woffe, Mo. Illinois | 244 | 1272 |
| Laake, La. Tech | 270 | 1706 |
| Peterson, Oklahoma | 286 | 1671 |
| Moreno, Okla. State | 250 | 1454 |
| Wright, Penn St. | 250 | 1454 |
| Hart, Michigan | 261 | 1372 |
| Kansas, Kansas St. | 261 | 1372 |
| Horne, Ariz. State | 188 | 1171 |
| Johnson, C-Michigan | 188 | 1171 |
| Jones, Northwest | 274 | 1381 |
| Dorsey, UNLV | 227 | 1082 |
| Maroney, Minnesota | 188 | 1243 |
| Moore, New Mexico | 277 | 1488 |
| Fason, Florida | 205 | 1173 |

Passing

| Team | Cards | Yds |
|-----------------------|-------|------|
| Lefors, Louisville | 204 | 2152 |
| Smith, Utah | 189 | 2152 |
| Campbell, Auburn | 219 | 2157 |
| Jacobs, Bowling Green | 219 | 2157 |
| Rodgers, Cal. | 246 | 2070 |
| Wagner, Oklahoma | 246 | 2070 |
| Grubbs, Toledo | 266 | 2324 |
| Leffers, USC | 243 | 2274 |
| Orton, Purdue | 342 | 2890 |
| Orton, Purdue | 342 | 2890 |
| Orton, Purdue | 342 | 2890 |
| Orton, Purdue | 342 | 2890 |
| Orton, Purdue | 342 | 2890 |
| Orton, Purdue | 342 | 2890 |
| Orton, Purdue | 342 | 2890 |
| Orton, Purdue | 342 | 2890 |

Receiving

| Team | Cards | Yds |
|-----------------------|-------|------|
| Ridgeway, Ball State | 12 | 98 |
| Bernal-Wood, Idaho | 12 | 98 |
| Edwards, Michigan | 12 | 98 |
| Deshaire, E. Michigan | 14 | 1257 |
| Bowers, Nevada | 11 | 814 |
| Shuffield, Purdue | 11 | 814 |
| Shuffield, Purdue | 11 | 814 |
| Owens, Hawaii | 11 | 814 |
| Jones, Marshall | 11 | 814 |
| Hass, Oregon State | 11 | 814 |
| Wright, Middle Tenn. | 11 | 814 |
| Hagan, Arizona State | 11 | 814 |
| Webb, San Diego St. | 11 | 814 |
| Haven, Texas Tech | 11 | 814 |
| Magnus, Bob Green | 11 | 814 |



Don't drop the ball!
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 Login to view more team photos & video
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Week 13 Pick Deadline:
 12 noon, U.S. Central Time
 Sunday, December 5

As a BONUS prize, the top winner each week will receive \$100 toward merchandise at TeamStore.com

TEAMSTORE.COM

NFL Challenge
 The deadline to enter your picks for the NFL Challenge is fast approaching!

Log in every week during the 2004 NFL Season and make your picks for the winners of the upcoming NFL games. Earn points for every winning team you pick and at the end of the season, the "win" record will be the winner. Enter the "win" record from Monday's paper and 00:00 your point total for the week.

STARS AND STRIPES
OCONUS

Virginia Tech, Miami ready to battle for ACC title, BCS berth

BY TIM REYNOLDS
The Associated Press

MIAMI — Their rivalry forms about a decade ago in the Big East, and moving to the Atlantic Coast Conference only heightened the disdain Miami and Virginia Tech have for each other.

The Hurricanes want revenge; they were simply awful in last year's 31-17 loss at Virginia Tech, losing the ball four times and their cool countless others. The Hurricanes want revenge; they were simply awful in last year's 31-17 loss at Virginia Tech, losing the ball four times and their cool countless others.

Saturday's showdown between the league's two newcomers at the Orange Bowl will essentially serve as the ACC championship game, with the winner set to represent the conference at the Sugar Bowl on Jan. 3 and the loser headed to the Peach Bowl on New Year's Eve night.

"Each year, we put a star by Miami on the schedule," Virginia Tech quarterback Bryan Randall said. "We feel like when we get to that game, that should be the biggest game of the year if everything things work itself out right. This is it, just so happens that it is really the biggest game."

No. 9 Miami (8-2, 5-2) is looking to send off the seniors playing their home finale in style, with a

■ **Virginia Tech at Miami, 7 p.m. CET Saturday, AFN-Pacific.**

ticket to a Bowl Championship Series game for the fifth straight year. No. 10 Virginia Tech (9-2, 6-1), winners of seven straight games, can win the ACC title outright and reach the BCS for the first time since the 1999 season.

"It's going to be a long afternoon," Miami coach Larry Coker said. "It's an afternoon where we'll have to, as we say, keep punching. I hope they don't even turn the scoreboard on. I don't even want to know what the score is. I just want to play until somebody says they win or we win."

Last year's game in Blacksburg was marred by fights and Miami accusing Virginia Tech of cheap shots, two purportedly knocking defensive tackles Antonio Thomas and Orien Harris from the game.

What really doomed Miami that night, though, was an array of uncharacteristic errors.

Virginia Tech's defense scored two touchdowns, getting one when Roscoe Parrish was inexplicably stripped while running a reverse.

Miami was flagged for 14 penalties, costing it 117 yards. The Hurricanes' Kevin Everett dropped a certain touchdown on a fake field goal, and the Hokies blocked another field goal try.

"Everything kind of went our way in that ballgame," Hokies coach Frank Beamer said. "I've always thought last year is long year. This week's a new week and all I'm seeing is the same kind of talent at Miami and it's probably coming together now better than it has at any time this season."

The Hurricanes' last game was perhaps their most complete, a 52-7 romp past Wake Forest two weeks ago. Since then, they've fixated on the chance to atone for last year's loss to the Hokies.

"I'm going to finish off strong, no matter who I'm playing," said senior cornerback Antrel Rolle, who was kicked out of last year's game for fighting DeAngelo Hall. "But it's a plus going against Virginia Tech. They gave us a pretty bad whupping last year, so I'm going to have every intention to give them the same."

Berlin is having a monster year for the Hurricanes, silencing his numerous detractors. He's thrown for 21 touchdowns against only four interceptions, hasn't been picked off in nearly two months and is peaking at the perfect time.

But the Hokies rattled him last year, sacking him three times and intercepting two passes.

"When he's comfortable, when he has protection from his offensive line, he has the ability to beat



Miami quarterback Brock Berlin was sacked three times and intercepted twice in last season's 31-17 loss at Virginia Tech.

teams single-handedly with his arm." Hokies safety Vincent Fulmer said. "When you get a pass rush on the quarterback and get him under duress, they pay more attention to that than the receivers down the field."

This game need not need any more hype. Naturally, some found its way to Miami's bulletin boards.

Following last week's 24-10 victory over Virginia that secured the Hokies at least a share of the conference title, safety James Griffin held a small sign on the sideline. It read "ACC Champions."

Technically correct, yet undeniably offensive to the Miami side.

"It's like a lack of respect," Parrish said. "I guess they still lived off last year. They don't respect us and they're just looking at us like we're a little anonymous team or something... They'll see."

Navy's Eckel still rising on academy's rush charts

BY BILL FLEISCHMAN
Philadelphia Daily News

PHILADELPHIA — The 'ol fullback from Philly's Episcopal Academy is in pretty good football company at the Naval Academy.

Kyle Eckel is tied with Heisman Trophy winner Joe Bellino for fourth in career rushing touchdowns (24). Former NFL player Napoleon McCallum is third with 31.

Eckel's 12 100-yard rushing games tie him for fourth, seven behind leader McCallum's 19. Eckel also is fourth on Navy's career rushing chart with 2,642 yards.

The 5-11, 240-pound Eckel is pleased with his accomplishments, but he is more proud that he is part of Navy's football revival under coach Paul Johnson.

"(The stats) are special and mean a lot to me," Eckel said on the phone from Annapolis, Md. "Running the ball a lot in this system is a big reason I came here. But what means more is the game this year."

Navy, 8-2 and headed for the Emerald Bowl in San Francisco on Dec. 30, meets Army (2-8) at Lincoln Financial Field on Saturday.

Navy has won two in a row to trim Army's advantage in the respected series to 49-48-7.

The Midshipmen have recovered from the 1-10 and 0-10 records of 2000 and '01 to the point that they are confident entering every game.

"The attitude every week is, we can win this game," Eckel said.

"It's a lot of hard work and desire. We try to make sure we keep a level head but still use our emotions to our advantage."

Talent also is a reason for Navy's success. Eckel has attracted attention from NFL scouts. He is scheduled to play in the East-West Shrine game and the Hula Bowl.

No one at Navy has appreciated Eckel's contributions more than Johnson. Referring to Eckel, the coach said, "He's Mr. Tough Guy, a blue-collar player. He has good balance and he's strong."

Punishing opposing tacklers isn't Eckel's contributions more than Johnson. Referring to Eckel, the coach said, "He's Mr. Tough Guy, a blue-collar player. He has good balance and he's strong."

"He's one of our more vocal players," quarterback Aaron Polanco said. "Before games he tries to get us pumped (by) saying what's on his mind."

"There shouldn't be a lot of talk needed this week. There will be a lot of guys standing up and yelling in each other's faces and what this game means to us and our program," Eckel said.

■ **105th Army-Navy game at Philadelphia, 8:30 p.m. CET Saturday, AFN-Atlantic; AFN-Pacific.**

Tennessee can bail out BCS with victory

BY PAUL NEWBERRY
The Associated Press

ATLANTA — The guys who run the BCS may want to learn the words to "Rocky Top" and rummage around in their closets for something orange.

Tennessee is their best hope for a bailout.

The Volunteers could save the beleaguered Bowl Championship Series from a major headache by upsetting No. 3 Auburn in the Southeastern Conference title game Saturday night.

As things stand now, the Tigers (11-0) figure to get the short end of the national championship stick. Southern Cal and Oklahoma are 1-2 in the BCS standings, with determining the teams that will meet Jan. 4 in the Orange Bowl.

If all three teams win Saturday — USC (11-0) closes the regular-season against UCLA; Oklahoma (11-0) takes on Colorado in the Big 12 championship — Auburn will be the odd team out in all likelihood.

Each member of The Big Three is a heavy favorite this weekend, but No. 15 Tennessee (9-2) is clearly the best of the opponents.

The Vols overcame the loss of their top two quarterbacks, plus a shaky defense, to knock off favored Georgia in the SEC East.

■ **SEC championship: Auburn vs. Tennessee at Atlanta, midnight CET Saturday, AFN-Pacific.**

"This is why guys come here, to play for SEC championships," safety Jason Allen said. "We have to take advantage of this opportunity."

Tennessee has a little extra motivation, too.

In early October, Auburn held its coming-out party at Neyland Stadium, stunning the Vols 34-10. Tennessee spent the rest of the season vowing to earn a trip to Atlanta for another shot at the Tigers.

"The first game against Auburn, we didn't play as well as we would have liked to have played, so we feel we have something to prove," center Jason Roper said.

Motivation aside, the Vols are a decided underdog — 14½ points as of Thursday — because third-stringer Rick Clausen is now starting at quarterback. The defense gave up 64 points to SEC lightweights Vanderbilt and Kentucky in the last two games.

Clausen took over when freshman Erik Anger (separated shoulder) and Brent Schaeffer (broken collarbone) went down. The younger brother of former Tennessee quarterback Casey Clausen



Tennessee QB Rick Clausen threw for 349 yards against Kent State last week but will face a decidedly tougher Auburn defense in the SEC title game.

en threw for 349 yards against Kentucky, but the fill-in will be facing a much stronger defense this time.

Auburn is giving up less than 10 points a game.

"I am very excited," Rick Clausen said. "Things happen on a real son, and you have to roll with the punches. Everyone faces a little adversity, and it makes you a stronger person."

The Vols faced plenty of adversity in their first meeting against Auburn — and they sure didn't react very well.

Favre happy to have helping hand on field

Packers 6-0 since emergency replacement Sherman took over as play-caller on sideline

BY ARNIE STAPLETON

The Associated Press

GREEN BAY, Wis. — It seems like old times for Brett Favre.

For the first time since Mike Holmgren paced the Packers' sidelines in the 1990s, Favre has his play-caller on the field with him, and the 35-year-old quarterback is thriving under the impromptu arrangement.

"He sees, he hears, he feels what's going on," Favre said of coach Mike Sherman, who took over the play-calling after offensive coordinator Tom Rossley's emergency heart operation in October.

The Packers are 6-0 since.

During that stretch, Favre has completed more than two-thirds of his passes, thrown for 13 touchdowns and five interceptions and been sacked just twice while compiling an impressive 102.9 passer rating.

"It's working well now and there's no need for any changes when stuff is working good," said Rossley, who still installs the game plan.

He also advises Sherman from the coaches box on trends during the game now that he doesn't have to scan his down-and-distance charts as plays are finishing up.

"I'm able to focus on the game a little bit more and I want to take advantage of a good job of calling it right now and things are working. We're in a good flow," Rossley said.

Sherman dismisses suggestions the change was the impetus for the team's turnaround from a 1-4



In the Green Bay Packers' past six games, Brett Favre has completed more than two-thirds of his passes, thrown for 13 TDs and five interceptions and been sacked just twice while compiling a 102.9 passer rating.

start heading into Sunday's showdown at Philadelphia (10-1). He insists it's really just a subtle switch of some responsibilities and that the arrangement remains a week-to-week thing.

Favre said it's easier for him to have his play-caller on the side-

line, but realizes it's a heavy burden for the coach. "I told Mike, 'I can only imagine how difficult it's going to be to call the game.' I know it's difficult, but I said, 'Put it in my hands.'"

Sherman has done that, meeting with Favre before kickoffs

and then huddling with him throughout the game for his thoughts.

"He'll come over to me after a series and ask me what I think," Favre said. "We meet in here before the game and he'll show me 10 or 15 passes that he recom-

mends or, really, I've recommended. And he'll throw in mine. He'll say, 'What do you think?' And I'll say, 'I like that.' Or if I don't like it, 'You move this one up, you move this one down.' In the course of the game, he'll come over and say, 'What do you think?'

And so, it makes it a lot easier."

Both men seem to benefit from the increased communication.

"The one thing is that coach Sherman is right there and Favre can come up to him and say, 'This is what I'm thinking,' or 'What are you seeing out there?'" quarterbacks coach Darrell Bevell said. "Just because you can walk right up to a guy, that may mean better communication. Whereas, Tom might have been having those conversations with the head coach or another coach and bouncing those ideas off of them. You don't want to get Brett on the phone every single time."

Bevell said it's not an arrangement that would work well everywhere. Not all teams have a quarterback of Favre's pedigree and experience or a coach of Sherman's temperament who is as willing to listen to what his players have to say.

"One thing about Mike is he listens, especially during the game," Favre said. "Maybe at practice or meetings he may brush it off or make a joke about it, but during the game when it's crunch time, everyone's true colors show. And the mark of a good coach is a guy who will listen and not be too concerned with covering or have an 'I know it all' type attitude — 'OK, can you beat the guy? All right, let's try it.'"

"You've got to be willing to give a little bit, too, and he is."

TE Shockey sounds off about Giants' losing streak

The Associated Press

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. — The New York Giants' four-game losing streak and fading playoff hopes finally got the best of Jeremy Shockey.

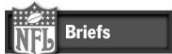
The emotional tight end expressed his displeasure with the team in a nearly 10-minute salty discussion with the media Thursday, during which he said team morale was "pretty low."

"I'm not going to lie to you," Shockey said. "Everyone's kind of looking around for someone else to say stuff. It's pretty bad, but we've got everything in the world to play for."

The Giants (5-6) are tied with St. Louis for the sixth-best record in the NFC heading into Sunday's game at Washington against the Redskins (3-8).

However, New York has lost five of six and has been beset by injuries on defense, particularly the defensive end that sidelined defensive end Michael Strahan for the rest of the season.

While the defense has held together, the offense has produced



little — even with No. 1 draft pick Eli Manning replacing Kurt Warner at quarterback.

Shockey, who has dropped more than his fair share of passes this season, said he has spoken to teammates about being positive.

"I told a bunch of people, 'If you don't believe we're in it, walk out the door. I'll pay your salary. I don't (care).'" Shockey said. "We control our own destiny from this point, and the only thing we can control is beating Washington."

Shockey said losing Strahan hurt the team from a leadership standpoint.

"He's always been a vocal leader the 12 or 13 years he's been here for," the third-year pro said. "We've got young guys. It's tough — you just keep messing up and people keep not doing their assignments."

Shockey said he'd like to see his teammates show they're in the game, even when they are on the sidelines.

NFL injury update

Injuries to prominent NFL players, followed by team's prognosis. See Friday's edition for complete injury report provided by the league.

Giants: DT Lorenzo Brownell (knee) was placed on injured reserve Thursday.

Giants: QB Trent Green (bruised ribs and hip) missed practice Thursday and is questionable for Sunday's game at Oakland.

Jaguars: DT Marcus Stroud (knee) missed practice Thursday but is expected to play against Pittsburgh on Sunday.

Browns: WR Andre Davis (turf toe) was placed on injured reserve Thursday.

against the Houston Texans after sitting out the last three games with a strained right rotator cuff.

Coach Herman Edwards made the move official Friday, though it comes as little surprise. Pennington was listed a questionable all week, but he practiced with the first-team offense and took the majority of snaps with the starters.

The biggest concern for Edwards was getting Pennington back into game-shape. Pennington has had no setbacks with his shoulder, and no pain or discomfort after three straight days of practice.

"I'm excited about playing with my teammates on Sunday," Pennington said in a statement. "I feel confident that I can help the team compete. My shoulder is no longer a concern."

Pennington got hurt Nov. 7 against Buffalo after a scramble. The Jets (8-3) went 2-1 without him, winning with backup Quincy Carter and staying in the playoff race. But the offense never got in a groove with Carter, scoring two touchdowns in the last two games.

Cardinals' Smith upbeat about chance of playing Sunday

TEMPE, Ariz. — Fifteen years in the NFL, have taught Emmitt Smith more than just how to slip tackles. He's also become an example of how to fight through injury.

A day after appearing with a boot to protect his sprained ankle and toe, the Arizona Cardinals running back wore regular footgear and talked as if he still hopes to play Sunday in Detroit.

"They say to play three weeks with me and, in a lot of cases, it can be two to three weeks," Smith said Thursday. "But the things that I do to assist my body and the things we're doing inside the training room, that's the normal protocol. The things I do extra on top of that is something that I think will help speed up the normal protocol."

"I have some appointments today, and I look forward to seeing how the appointments go out and how everything comes together. So we'll see how it feels tomorrow."

Jets QB Pennington to start against Texans

HEMPSTEAD, N.Y. — New York Jets quarterback Chad Pennington will start Sunday's game

BALCO founder: Jones used drugs

Conte tells ABC he watched gold medalist inject growth hormone

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Olympic star Marion Jones injected herself in the leg with human growth hormone while BALCO founder Victor Conte watched, he told ABC News in an interview for "20/20," to be broadcast Friday.

Jones also was given other performance-enhancing drugs by Conte, one of four men indicted in an alleged steroid-distribution ring.

Jones' attorneys denied she ever used performance-enhancing drugs.

In excerpts released by the network of the interview to be broadcast Friday night, Conte said he started supplying Jones with performance-enhancing drugs in the weeks leading up to the 2000 Olympics, when Jones won five medals.

Conte said he gave her a substance called "the clear," which was later determined to be THG, EPO and insulin. He also showed her how to inject HGH into her leg.

"After I instructed her how to do it and dialed it up, she did the injection with me sitting right next to her ... right in front of me," he told ABC.

Conte told ESPN the Magazine for an upcoming issue that Jones wasn't nervous about injecting herself.

"There was a lot she needed to know, like how to assemble it, how to get the air bubbles out of the cartridge so she didn't inject air, and how to inject herself ..."

he said. "She was wearing stretch bicycle shorts, and she pulled up the snapex above her right thigh. She dialed up the cartridge injector to deliver 4.5 units of growth hormone. I was sitting about a foot away from her as she injected the growth hormone into her quadricep."

Jones, who is under investigation for steroid use by the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency, has denied using any performance-enhancing drugs and passed a lie detector test arranged by her attorneys in June.

"Mr. Conte's statements have been wildly contradictory, while Marion Jones has steadfastly maintained her position throughout. She has never, ever used performance-enhancing drugs," said his attorney, Rich Nichols. "Mr. Conte is simply not credible. We challenge him to submit to the same lie detector procedure that Marion Jones passed."

Phone calls and e-mails to Conte's attorney, Robert Holley, weren't immediately returned.

Jones, who failed to win a medal at this year's Olympics, has never failed a drug test. Conte said no accurate tests existed for the substances he gave her during the approximately 13 months she was with him.

"I know that she was tested many, many times from the time-frame that I worked with her ... and she obviously passed," Conte said. "I know that she was tested on the drug tests, including the ones at the Olympic Games," he said. "So as I told you earlier ... it's like taking candy from a baby."



Sprinter Marion Jones injected herself in the leg with human growth hormone and was given other performance-enhancing drugs, BALCO founder Victor Conte told ABC News.

International Olympic Committee president Jacques Rogge said he was aware of Conte's accusations.

"I hope the truth will emerge," he said. "We want the truth. We want to know what happened and the more we know the better."

Conte also told ESPN the Magazine that a new drug, which he dubs "the clear III," is currently in circulation.

Conte was indicted in February by the grand jury investigating the Bay Area Laboratory Co-Operative. Conte, BALCO vice president James Valente, Barry Bonds' personal trainer Greg Anderson and track coach Rens Schramm have all pleaded not guilty to the charges.

Conte said he developed a plan to use drugs to help Tim Montgomery, the father of Angel baby, break the world record in the 100 meters in 2002. Montgomery's attorney, Howard Jacobs, declined to comment on the charges.

Conte also admitted to giving steroids to Anderson, but did not know whether Anderson gave any of them to Bonds or other baseball players.

Testimony could cost Giambi \$120M contract

By RONALD BLUM
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Jason Giambi might have taken his final swing for the New York Yankees.

His reported testimony that he used steroids might lead the Yankees to terminate his \$120 million contract and allow baseball commissioner Bud Selig to discipline him.

Giambi said he injected himself with human growth hormone in 2003 and used steroids for at least three seasons, according to a grand jury transcript reviewed by the San Francisco Chronicle.

His testimony last December, before a federal grand jury investigating illegal steroid distribution, contradicts his public proclamations that he never used performance-enhancing drugs.

Paid for steroid use in baseball began in 2003, but testing that identified players didn't start until the next season. While discipline is spelled out for positive tests and criminal convictions, admission of steroid use is not addressed, possibly giving Selig an opening to punish Giambi.

Selig repeatedly has called for year-round random testing and harsher penalties, but management and the players' association have failed to reach an agreement. The contract runs through the 2006 season.

"I've been saying for many months: I instituted a very, very tough program in the minor leagues on steroids in 2001. We need to have that program at the major league level," Selig said Thursday in Washington, D.C. "We're going to leave no stone unturned until we have that policy in place by spring training 2005."

Giambi, the 2000 American League MVP with Oakland, signed a seven-year contract with the Yankees before the 2002 season, the sixth-highest deal in base-

ball history. Bothered by an injured knee, Giambi hit just 250 in 2003, down from 308 and played in only 80 games last season, missing much of the season because of a sprained right ankle, fatigue and a benign tumor, which the New York Daily News reported was in his pituitary gland.

Giambi reportedly testified that one of the drugs he thought he used was Clomid, a female fertility drug that some medical experts say can exacerbate a pituitary tumor.

Giambi's agent, Aron Tellem, didn't return telephone calls seeking comment.

New York still owes Giambi \$82 million, but the Yankees might be able to get out of the deal.

They could argue Giambi's use of steroids violated his contract, allowing them to terminate it; violated the guarantee language of the deal, allowing them to release him at a fraction of the remaining money; or sued him if he is injured or unavailable, meaning he was paid at a time when he was at less than full strength.

"We have met with the commissioner's office today and will continue to work with them to obtain all of the facts in this matter," Yankees President Randy Levine said. "We have made no decision and will keep all of our options open."

Asked in February whether he had ever taken performance-enhancing drugs, Giambi said: "Are you talking about steroids? No."

However, he told grand jurors he used steroids during the 2001-2003 seasons, the Chronicle reported Thursday.

Bonds: MVP sought help for arthritis, lack of sleep

BONDS, FROM BACK PAGE

"It was in the ballpark ... in front of everybody. I mean, all the reporters, my teammates. I mean, they all saw it. I didn't hide it."

The transcript shows that before he testified, Bonds was told he would not be prosecuted for any crimes he admitted as long as he told the truth to the grand jury. But if he lied under oath, the prosecutors warned, he could face prosecution for perjury. It is illegal to obtain steroids and human growth hormone without a doctor's prescription.

Faced with the same warning and similar evidence, five other baseball players who were summoned to San Francisco to testify last year confirmed to the grand jury that they had used performance-enhancing drugs provided by Anderson.

One week after Bonds testified, New York Yankees first baseman Jason Giambi and his brother Jeremy, both former Oakland A's, described in detail how they had injected themselves with performance-enhancing drugs. The Giambis testified they were drawn to Anderson because of Bonds' success.

Other players who admitted their use of performance-enhancing drugs were



Bonds

former Giants Armando Rios, Benito Santiago and Bobby Estalella.

The players said they had come to know Anderson because he was Bonds' trainer.

A sixth witness, Yankees outfielder Gary Sheffield, testified that while he trained with Bonds in the Bay Area before the 2002 baseball season, Bonds had arranged for him to receive "the cream," the clear and "red beans," which the prosecutors identified as steroid pills.

Sheffield said he had never been told that the substances were steroids. Bonds also was using "the cream" and "the clear," Sheffield said.

"Nothing was between me and Greg," Sheffield testified. "Barry pretty much controlled everything ... It was basically Barry (saying), 'Trust me, do what I do.'"

I know I've seen Greg give Barry the same thing I was taking. I didn't see him taking those red beans, but I see him taking this (clear) and this cream here."

Attorneys for Sheffield and Santiago ex-

pressed dismay that the secrecy of the grand jury had been violated.

Santiago's attorney, David Cornwell, also said, "If any performance-enhancing drugs were ingested, they were ingested unknowingly."

Rios' attorney, Chris Cannon, dismissed the report as "ancient history." Estalella could not be reached for comment.

Since the BALCO scandal erupted, Bonds has insisted he never used banned drugs. But in statements they later denied making, both Conte and BALCO Vice President James Valente, also indicted, told investigators that Anderson was supplying steroids to Bonds, and records show.

In addition, The Chronicle has reported that in a secretly recorded conversation, Anderson said Bonds had used an "undetectable" performance-enhancing drug during the 2003 season.

Bonds hit 73 home runs in 2001, breaking one of baseball's most storied records. He hit his 703rd home run this past season and is expected to pass Babe Ruth's mark of 714 next year. Last month, at age 40, Bonds won his fourth consecutive National League Most Valuable Player award and the seventh of his career, more than any other player.

Anderson has been Bonds' trainer throughout his assault on the home run record.

In his grand jury testimony, Bonds described Anderson as a boyhood friend with whom he reconnected in 1998, when Anderson was working as a personal trainer on the Peninsula.

Bonds said he had begun using the cream and the clear substance at a time when he was aching with arthritis and was distraught over the terminal illness of his father, the Giants' manager, All-Star Bobby Bonds, who died Aug. 23, 2003.

"I have bad arthritis. I've played 18 years, had knees, surgeries and so on," Bonds testified, adding that he wanted a product that would "take the arthritis pain away that I feel in the mornings when it's super cold ..."

"I was battling with the problems with my father and the — just the lack of sleep, lack of everything."

But Bonds said he got little help from Anderson's products. Eventually, Bonds said he had to "take the products, telling the grand jury, 'If it's a steroid, it's not working.'"

Bonds insisted he had never paid Anderson for drugs or supplements, but he acknowledged paying him \$15,000 in 2003 for weight training.

SPORTS

Bonds testified to steroid use



Eckel hoping to lead
revived Navy past
Army, Page 28



San Francisco Giants slugger Barry Bonds reportedly admitted during grand jury testimony that he unknowingly took steroids from BALCO.

Giants slugger admitted taking substances from BALCO, but denied knowing they were drugs

BY LANCE WILLIAMS AND
MARK FAINARU-WADA
San Francisco Chronicle

SAN FRANCISCO — Barry Bonds told a federal grand jury that he used a clear substance and a cream supplied by the Burlington laboratory now enmeshed in a sports doping scandal, but he said he never thought they were steroids, The San Francisco Chronicle has learned.

Federal prosecutors charge that the Bay Area Laboratory Co-operative, known as BALCO, distributed undetectable steroids to elite athletes in the form of a clear substance that was taken orally and a cream that was rubbed onto the body.

Bonds testified that he had received and used clear and cream substances from his personal strength trainer, Greg Anderson, during the 2003 baseball season but was told they were the nutritional supplement flaxseed oil and a rubbing balm for arthritis, according to a transcript of his testimony reviewed by The Chronicle.

Federal prosecutors confronted Bonds during his testimony on Dec. 4, 2003, with documents indicating he had used steroids and human growth hormone during a three-year assault on baseball's home run record, but the Giants star denied the allegations.

During the three-hour proceeding, two prosecutors presented Bonds with documents that allegedly detailed his use of a long list of drugs: human growth hormone, Depo-Testosterone, undetectable steroids known as "the cream" and "the clear," insulin and Clomid, a drug for female infertility sometimes used to enhance the effect of testosterone.

The documents, many with Bonds' name on them, are dated from 2001 through 2003. They include a laboratory test result that could reflect steroid use and what appeared to be schedules of drug use with billing information, prosecutors told the grand jury.

In a September 2003 raid on Anderson's Burlingame home, federal investigators seized documents they said showed Bonds was using banned drugs, according to court records. Anderson was indicted in February on charges of money laundering and conspiracy to distribute steroids in the BALCO case.

Bonds' attorney, Michael Rains, said he was upset, though not entirely surprised, his client's secret testimony had been revealed.

He said he had no proof but suspected the

■ **Giambi's testimony could prompt Yankees to terminate contract**

■ **BALCO founder says he supplied sprinter Jones with drugs**

Page 31

government was the source of the leak, insisting it had been out to get Bonds from the beginning.

"My view has always been this case has been the U.S. vs. Bonds, and I think the government has moved in certain ways in a concerted effort to indict my client," Rains said. "And I think their failure to indict him has resulted in their attempts to smear him publicly."

Attorney Anna Ling, who along with J. Tony Serra represents Anderson, said a court order precluded her from commenting on grand jury testimony.

According to the transcript, two prosecutors queried Bonds closely about the documents, at times going over them line by line.

But Bonds said he had no knowledge of the doping calendars and other records that indicated he had used banned drugs. He said he had never paid Anderson for steroids and had never knowingly used them.

And he said he was confident that his trainer hadn't slipped him banned drugs without his knowledge, saying Anderson "wouldn't jeopardize our friendship" by doing that.

Bonds testified he had never discussed steroids with his trainer.

To the prosecutors, the substances Bonds said he was using sounded like "the cream" and "the clear," two steroids designed to be undetectable in laboratory testing that Victor Conte, founder of BALCO, is accused of marketing to elite athletes.

Bonds said that as far as he knew, Anderson had given him only legal products to treat the arthritis and fatigue that afflicted him, especially when playing a day game after a night game. The trainer brought the products into the Giants' clubhouse at Pac Bell Park "once a home stand," Bonds said, and that's where he used them.

"I never asked Greg" about what the products contained, Bonds testified. "When he said it was flaxseed oil, I just said, 'Whatever.'"

SEE BONDS ON PAGE 31

**Broken hand,
hurt shoulder
can't keep
Gradowski
and Toledo
from MAC
championship**

Page 27



**Nowitzki scores
NBA season high
53 as Mavericks
overcome
McGrady,
Rockets in Texas
showdown**

Page 30



**Hokies and
Hurricanes meet
with ACC title,
Sugar Bowl berth
at stake**

Page 28